DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 448 936 PS 029 171

AUTHOR	Amato, Tracey L.
TITLE	NACA Member Legislative Reference Guide, 2001. Revised.
INSTITUTION	National Association of Child Advocates, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	2001-01-00
NOTE	120p.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC05 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Advocacy; *Child Advocacy; *Child Welfare; Childhood Needs; Children; Childrens Rights; Organizations (Groups); State Government; State Legislation
IDENTIFIERS	Agendas; *National Association of Child Advocates; *Priorities

ABSTRACT

Calling for action on a wide range of children's issues, this guide of the National Association of Child Advocates (NACA) delineates the state legislative agendas of 41 of its members from 33 states. The reference guide is presented in three sections. Section 1 contains the legislative priorities by topic area in a chart format indicating the priorities for each member and contact information for the lead staff person. Section 2 lists priorities by state for each NACA member in the areas of health, education, child welfare, economic security/family support, intervention, prevention, tobacco settlement fund use, and early care and education. Section 3 delineates the legislative successes of five NACA members. Areas given the greatest priority among NACA's members include foster care reform, expansions in the Earned Income Tax Credit, and increased access to health care. (KB)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 448 936

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

2001 NACA Member Legislative Reference Guide

National Association of Child Advocates
1522 K Street NW Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
N. S. Sconyers
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
1

PS 029171

2001 NACA Member Legislative Reference Guide

National Association of Child Advocates
1522 K Street NW Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005

Revised January 2001

Data collected and prepared by Tracey L. Amato

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILD ADVOCATES

"Raise Your Hand For Kids"

NACA's Nationwide Network

Youth Law for Alabama's Children
Children's Action Alliance - Arizona
Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families
Children Now - California
Children's Advocacy Institute - California
Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth - California
Kids in Common - California
Colorado Children's Campaign
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Connecticut Voices for Children
KIDS COUNT in Delaware
1,2,3 Action for Children
The Center for Florida's Children
Georgians for Children
Hawaii Kids Watch™
Idaho KIDS COUNT
Voices for Illinois Children
Indiana Youth Institute
Child & Family Policy Center - Iowa
Kansas Action for Children
Kentucky Youth Advocates
National Institute on Children, Youth & Families, Inc. - Kentucky
Agenda for Children - Louisiana
Maine Children's Alliance
Advocates for Children and Youth - Maryland
Maryland Association of Resources for Families & Youth
Massachusetts Citizens for Children
Michigan's Children
Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota
Mississippi Forum on Children and Families
Citizens for Missouri's Children
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Children's Advocacy Alliance - Nevada
Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
Association for Children of New Jersey
New Mexico Advocates for Children & Families
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
Statewide Youth Advocacy, Inc. - New York
Westchester Children's Association - New York
North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute
Kids Are Important in North Dakota
Children's Defense Fund - Ohio
Voices for Children and Families - Ohio
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
Children First For Oregon
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Philadelphia Citizens for Children & Youth
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Alliance for South Carolina's Children
South Dakota Coalition for Children
Black Children's Institute of Tennessee
A Vision for Children Center
Can Any Baby Can, Inc. - Texas
CHILDREN AT RISK - Texas
Prevent Child Abuse Texas
Tarrant County Youth Collaboration - Texas
Texans Care for Children
Utah Children
Vermont Children's Forum
The Action Alliance for Virginia's Children and Youth
The Children's Alliance - Washington
West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Wyoming Children's Action Alliance

An Introduction to the National Association of Child Advocates

The National Association of Child Advocates (NACA) is the only national association devoted to building the capacity of state and local child advocacy organizations. Founded in 1984, NACA represents and supports a nationwide network of child advocacy organizations working at the increasingly critical level of America's statehouses, county commissions, and city councils.

With 63 member organizations in 48 states and 11 cities and communities, NACA serves as the forum where child advocacy leaders from across the country convene to share ideas and exchange information, formulate joint efforts and coordinate strategies, sharpen their skills, and increase the impact of the child advocacy movement. NACA establishes links between state and local advocates and national experts and provides a clearinghouse of information on issues affecting children and effective advocacy.

Recognition of NACA's leadership role in the child advocacy community has been confirmed by a growth of NACA membership by more than 40 % since early 1995. NACA's members are:

- ❑ Non-profit, independent, and professionally run advocacy organizations answering to no one but the children they represent.
- ❑ Multi-issue organizations that view the child as a whole, knowing that children need all the pieces of the puzzle—food, shelter, security, education, health care—to grow up strong and productive.
- ❑ Advocates, not direct service providers. They educate decision makers on children's programs, collect data on the status of children and the operation of children's programs, inform the public and the media about children's issues, and litigate on behalf of children, when necessary.
- ❑ Responsive to different community needs and priorities, utilizing a variety of approaches in recognition of the reality that one size does not fit all.

NACA's member organizations provide critical leadership on children's issues in their states and localities. Many lead broad-based coalitions that address the serious issues arising from rapid transformation in programs critical to children's well-being, such as welfare reform, managed health care, and child protective services reform. Others are engaged in active partnerships with educators, service providers, health professionals, and others to improve the status of children and families. Still, others are leading the fight for improvements and expansions in public programs serving this country's most vulnerable children.

To support its member organizations, NACA provides a range of services, including timely information on critical issues affecting children and families, national conferences and regional training opportunities that enable child advocates to gain knowledge and augment skills, and individualized technical assistance that is tailored to the needs of state and local child advocacy organizations. NACA also provides organizational development assistance in areas such as board development, management, and fundraising.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

1/01

1522 K STREET, NW ☆ SUITE 600 ☆ WASHINGTON, DC 20005-1202 ☆ 202 289 0777 ☆ 202 289 0776 (FAX)
naca@childadvocacy.org ☆ www.childadvocacy.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION ..... pp. iii

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... pp. v-vi

TOPIC AREAS

Child Welfare ..... pp. 1-6
Early Care and Education ..... pp. 7-14
Economic Security/Family Support ..... pp. 15-19
Education ..... pp. 21-24
Health ..... pp. 25-35
Intervention/Prevention ..... pp. 37-39
Juvenile Justice ..... pp. 41-42
Tobacco Settlement Fund Use ..... pp. 43
Additional Comments ..... pp. 45-46

NACA MEMBERS

Alabama - VOICES for Alabama's Children ..... pp. 47
Arizona - Children's Action Alliance ..... pp. 49-50
California - Children's Advocacy Institute ..... pp. 51
California - Children Now ..... pp. 53
Colorado - Colorado Children's Campaign (Draft) ..... pp. 55
Connecticut - Connecticut Association of Human Services ..... pp. 57
Connecticut - Connecticut Voices for Children ..... pp. 59
Georgia - Georgians for Children ..... pp. 61
Illinois - Voices for Illinois Children ..... pp. 63-64
Kansas - Kansas Action for Children (Draft) ..... pp. 65-66
Louisiana - Agenda for Children (Draft) ..... pp. 67
Maine - Maine Children's Alliance ..... pp. 69
Maryland - Advocates for Children and Youth ..... pp. 71-72
Maryland - Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth ..... pp. 73-74
Massachusetts - Massachusetts Citizens for Children ..... pp. 75
Minnesota - Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota ..... pp. 77
Missouri - Citizens for Missouri's Children ..... pp. 79-80
Nevada - The Children's Advocacy Alliance ..... pp. 81

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NACA MEMBERS cont.

New Hampshire - Children's Alliance of New Hampshire..... pp. 83-86
New Jersey - Association for Children of New Jersey (Draft)... pp. 87
New Mexico - New Mexico Advocates for Children and Families..... pp. 89-90
New York - Statewide Youth Advocacy, Inc..... pp. 91
New York - Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (Draft)..... pp. 93
North Carolina - North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute..... pp. 95-96
Ohio - Children's Defense Fund - Ohio..... pp. 97
Oklahoma - Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy..... pp. 99-100
Pennsylvania - Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children..... pp. 101-102
Pennsylvania - Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth... pp. 103-105
Rhode Island - Rhode Island KIDS COUNT..... pp. 107
South Carolina - Alliance for South Carolina's Children..... pp. 109
South Dakota - South Dakota Coalition for Children..... pp. 111
Texas - CHILDREN AT RISK..... pp. 113
Texas - Prevent Child Abuse Texas..... pp. 115-116
Texas - Tarrant County Youth Collaboration..... pp. 117
Texas - Texans Care For Children..... pp. 119-120
Utah - Utah Children..... pp. 121
Vermont - The Vermont Children's Forum..... pp. 123-124
Virginia - The Action Alliance for Virginia's Children and Youth (Draft)..... pp. 125
Washington - Children's Alliance..... pp. 127
West Virginia - West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund..... pp. 129
Wisconsin - Wisconsin Council on Children and Families..... pp. 131-132

NACA MEMBER SUCCESSES

Missouri - Citizens for Missouri's Children..... pp. 133
New Jersey - Association for Children of New Jersey..... pp. 135
New York - Citizens' Committee for Children of New York..... pp. 137-138
Rhode Island - Rhode Island KIDS COUNT..... pp. 139
South Carolina - Alliance for South Carolina's Children..... pp. 141

INTRODUCTION

NACA is pleased to offer the *2001 NACA Member Legislative Reference Guide*, a compilation of legislative priorities from NACA members nationwide. This year, 41 NACA members submitted their legislative agendas in time for inclusion, up from 28 last year. This guide is a resource for you to gather information on the legislative efforts of your NACA colleagues. We hope this guide will help you identify child advocates around the country who are working on the same issues with whom you can share ideas and brainstorm legislative strategies. You may be able to identify new approaches to thorny problems or identify trends that you can expect to see in your state. Lastly, in the "NACA Member Successes" section of the guide, you can learn who has achieved outcomes on particular issues and contact that member to find out which strategy worked for them.

The reference guide consists of three sections. The first section contains the legislative priorities by topic area in an easy-to-use chart. The chart contains the list of priorities for each member along with the contact information for the lead staff person. The second section has the priorities listed by state. This section contains more specifics on each priority than the chart provides. The third section provides the legislative successes of some NACA members. This section can be especially useful for members who are just beginning work in an area where another member has had a success; your more experienced colleagues may be a good source of information and advice on developing legislative strategies.

NACA would like to thank all the members who sent in their legislative priorities. Without their responses, this guide would not have been possible.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A review of the legislative agendas shows that while many issues remained key priorities for child advocates across the country, some issues increased in prevalence, and a few new interesting issues appeared.

NACA members continue to place a high priority on increasing child care subsidies. Twenty-one out of the thirty-two members who included Early Care and Education (ECE) in their legislative priorities mentioned increasing child care subsidies. This is consistent with last year's responses. Supporting after-school programs, including youth development programs, also continues to be a high priority, with 13 members including them in their agendas. In the health policy arena, increasing access to health care is as dominant as last year. Thirty-eight members listed health priorities; twenty-seven of these mentioned increasing access to health care. For these members, the most frequent approach to increase access is through increasing the eligibility levels for Medicaid. Lastly, advocating for tax credits, especially earned income tax credits, remains a predominant topic. Twenty-two members listed economic security/family support priorities this year; eleven out of the twenty-two mentioned tax credits. Notably, members' strategy to advocate for tax credits is to frame them as a way to make "work pay" for the working poor - that is, ensure that they are better off financially if they work than if they do not work.

One area of increased prevalence from last year is that more members are using the goal of ensuring school readiness to frame the need for programs that foster early education and child development. Along with supporting specific programs to increase school readiness, many members are supporting universal pre-kindergarten and all day kindergarten. In health, more members are including mental and oral health policies in their agendas. Two child welfare issues have also risen to the top of many members' priorities: kinship care and services for children aging out of the foster care system. Many members support providing financial assistance to kinship care givers and/or increasing the availability of kinship care. Also, many members support programs to help long-term foster care youth transition from foster care to the adult world. Two specific proposals that many members are including are continued health care coverage until age 21 and post-secondary education assistance.

Some less common legislative priorities are worthy of note. One interesting development is the number of members seeking improved compensation of ECE workers. A few members have priorities that include health care coverage for workers, education and training assistance, accreditation assistance, and increased wages for workers. These members want to increase the quality of child care through increasing the benefits to child care workers. Another interesting development is the number of members tackling gun issues. These members are advocating gun safety as a children's health issue because they want to reduce the number of children hurt directly or indirectly from gun injuries. Lastly, one member is urging legislation against usury to stop the high interest loans that are so adversely impacting low-income families.

The reference guide shows the breadth and scope of child advocates' agendas nationwide. As the federal government continues to give more control over children's programs to the states, state legislative action becomes increasingly important. State and local child advocates can play a large role in forming sound legislation to assist the healthy development of children and the stability of at-risk

families. NACA members are stepping up to the plate. They are actively speaking out as the voice for children and youth to their state leaders.

Innovative policies in one state often bear fruit beyond that state's borders. States are more likely to adopt a policy if you can show that it has been successfully implemented elsewhere. We hope you will look here for ideas that might be worth including in your future legislative agenda. In addition, states remain a laboratory for federal change. When state programs succeed, often they become models for federal legislation. The legislative priorities described in this guide are likely to become the state laws of tomorrow, and the blue print for children's policies nationwide.

Information provided by NACA members as of December 21, 2000

NACA Members' Legislative Priorities by Topic Area

CHILD WELFARE

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Raise payments to foster homes, group homes, and child care institutions	AL - VOICES for Alabama's Children	Linda Tilly	334-213-2410 ltilly@alavoices.org
➔Hire 110 additional child protective services staff and enhance staff training ➔Increase funding for children's services line item in Child Protective Services budget	AZ - Children's Action Alliance	Beth Rosenberg	602-266-0707 ext. 206 brosenberg@azchildren.org
➔Enactment of family foster care enhancement legislation ➔Enactment of post-emancipation foster care education legislation	CA - Children's Advocacy Institute	Robert Fellmeth	619-260-4806 cpil@acusd.edu
➔Financial support for Kinship Care	CT - Connecticut Voices for Children	Shelley Geballe	203-498-4240 yalie4567@aol.com
➔Strengthen Georgia's Child Protective Services' capacity to protect children from abuse and neglect	GA - Georgians for Children	Karen Worthington	404-727-6664
➔Enhance accountability and informed decision-making in the child welfare system ➔Stem the tide of children and youth needlessly entering the foster care system	KS - Kansas Action for Children	Dodie Wellshear Johnson	785-232-0550 dodie@kac.org
➔Amend the kinship law to allow for informal custody arrangements	LA - Agenda for Children	Judy Watts	504-586-8509 jwatts@agendaforchildren.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Substance abuse treatment for parents of children at-risk of maltreatment: increase slots and addiction specialists ➔Caseload reduction in child welfare services ➔Fund fully the work of the Child Fatality and Citizen Review teams ➔Repeal the religious exemption from child welfare statues ➔Grants to public/private partnerships to create a better infrastructure identifying, diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect	MD - Advocates for Children and Youth	Matthew Joseph	410-547-9200 ext. 3005 mjoseph@acy.org
➔Support full integration of child welfare and substance abuse services ➔Advocate for the Cardin-Chafee Foster Care Independence Act ➔Support full implementation of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) ➔Foster development of programs and services ➔Ensure the adoption of a *Foster Parents' Bill of Rights*. ➔Continue to ensure full implementation of The Child Welfare Workforce Act of 1998 ➔Advocate for educational opportunities for children in state-supervised care	MD - Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth	Jim McComb Christina Feehan	410-974-4901 ext. 1 jmccomb@erols.com ext. 2 cgfeehan@yahoo.com

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Include Medicaid coverage as an option in Missouri's implementation of the Foster Care Independence Act. ➔Enact recommendations of *Building Bridges to Permanency Project*, including expedited time frames, support for a unified family court model, and creating options of permanent guardianship ➔Increase the number of Division of Family Services line staff and supervisors to meet Council on Accreditation standards ➔Increase foster care reimbursement rates. ➔Increase residential treatment reimbursement rates.	MO - Citizens for Missouri's Children	Ruth Ehresman Beth Griffin	314-647-2003 ruth@fastrans.net mbgrif@fastrans.net
➔Provide for the establishment of nonprofit agencies to shelter and assist homeless minors ➔Provide for the integration of the state and local child welfare systems ➔Expand the definition of "child" in NRS 432.010 to allow youths to stay in foster care until age 21 for certain circumstances	NV - The Children's Advocacy Alliance	Donna Husted	702-450-7450
➔Adopt and meet national accreditation standards ➔Authorize the establishment of a Teen Transitional Living Program ➔Foster a successful transition to adulthood for youth with developmental disabilities and/or mental health illness	NH - Children's Alliance of New Hampshire	Ellen Shemitz	603-225-2264 eshemitz@childrennh.org
➔Establish a KinshipCare support program	NJ - Association for Children of New Jersey	Ciro Scalera	973-643-3876 ext. 106 ciro@acnj.org
➔New financing system for child welfare services ➔Improving quality and outcome measures in the state child welfare system	NY - State Youth Advocacy, Inc	Elie Ward	518-436-8525 ext. 23 esw@syanys.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Support and fully fund the Office of Children and Family Services' child welfare financing plan ➔Recommend that New York State opt into a federal provision extending Medicaid coverage til age 21 for youth who leave foster care	NY - Citizens' Committee for Children of New York	Gabrielle Kreisler	212-673-1800 ext 12 gkreisler@kfny.org
➔Increase post-adoption services for families who adopt foster children ➔Expand the special needs adoption incentive fund ➔Extend adoption services past age 18 ➔Support post-adoption contract agreements that encourage ongoing contact between adopted children and their birth parents after finalization of the adoption (when mutually agreed upon).	NC - North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute	Paula Wolf	919-834-6623 ext. 227 wolf@covenant.g12.com
➔Expand violence prevention efforts through earlier and sustained awareness, education and counseling	OK - Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy	Anne Roberts	405-236-5437 aroberts@oica.org
State Initiatives ➔Support changes in both state laws and regulations that protect children, support kinship care	PA - Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth	Shelly Yanoff	215-563-5848 ext. 20 shellypccy@aol.com
➔Increase prevention oriented funding to the Department of Children, Youth and Families	RI - Rhode Island KIDS COUNT	Catherine Walsh	401-351-9400 ext. 14 cbwalsh@rikidscount.org
➔Increase funding for child abuse prevention programs ➔Increase funding to the Department of Protective & Regulatory Services ➔Support communities in their efforts to coordinate the investigation of child abuse & services for victims	TX - Prevent Child Abuse	Wendell Teltow	512-250-8438 wteltow@preventchildabusetexas.org
➔Increase Child Protection Services (CPS) caseworker salaries to be competitive with other comparable professionals ➔Reduce CPS caseworker caseloads from 25 to 15 active investigations ➔Enactment of a Texas Standby Guardianship Bill	TX - Tarrant County Youth Collaboration	Nikki Hatley Pam Donnelly	817-923-4784 817-335-1994

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→Promote a tenured workforce, current caseloads, worker safety and retention, and leadership development →Improve the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) by continued and increased funding of critical components of the system →Increase funding for Children's Advocacy Centers through the Attorney General's Crime Victim Compensation Fund →Increase funding for children and families to receive quality services →Increase CPS funding for automation/technology, intake and investigation, caseload reduction, statewide assessment project, and adequate staff	TX - Texans Care For Children	Susan Craven	512-419-7391 scraven@texas.net
→Post adoption services →Shelter care options in child protective investigations →Notice and reasonable efforts requirements for children in Division custody for reasons other than abuse or neglect →Create a Foster and Adopted Children Task Force to investigate and prepare recommendations on mental health services →Reimbursement for assessment completed by the Division →Child welfare alternative dispute resolution →Foster parent Child Protective Services investigation amendments →Task force on family conflict resolution →Safe relinquishment of infants →Tuition waivers for children in long-term foster care →Juvenile court jurisdiction for administrative hearing appeals →Clarification of time limits for reunification services	UT - Utah Children	Roz McGee	801-364-1182 roz@utahchildren.net

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Will work towards continued appropriations for youth who age out of the foster care system	VT - The Vermont Children's Forum	Carlen Finn	802-229-6377
➔ Ensuring that institutions, including the foster care system, do not use corporal punishment against children	VA - The Action Alliance for Virginia's Children and Youth	Margaret Nimmo	804-649-0184 margaret@vakids.org
➔We will support state legislation to continue Medicaid coverage for foster care youth until their 21st birthday	WA - Children's Alliance	Paul Berry	206-324-0340 ext. 15 paul@childrensalliance.org
➔Eliminate waiting lists for kinship care program ➔Expand Medical Assistance coverage to 18-21 year old youth who age out of foster care ➔Adopt the Family Violence Option as provided by federal law ➔Oppose state assumption of county child welfare programs	WI - Wisconsin Council on Children and Families	Jill Jacklitz	608-284-0580 ext. 305 jjacklitz@wccf.org

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→Support higher subsidies, expand eligibility, and additional licensing of staff →Provide funding for expansion of voluntary 4K preschool programs under the Office of School Readiness at the Department of Children's Affairs	AL - VOICES for Alabama's Children	Linda Tilly	334-213-2410 ltilly@alvoices.org
→Establish voluntary consumer protection system for home-based child care business →Increase child care subsidy rates to reflect today's costs of child care →Hire additional child care surveyors(inspectors) →Amend Students First to provide financial options to help schools provide classrooms for preschool programs	AZ - Children's Action Alliance	 Child Care: Karen Ortiz Elizabeth Hudgins Education: Dana Naimark	602-266-0707 main line kortiz@azchildren.org ext. 201 ehudgins@azchildren.org ext. 202 dnaimark@azchildren.org
→Improve access to affordable, high quality child care	CA - Children Now	Ming Leung	510-763-2444 ext. 117 mleung@childrennow.org
→We support increased dollars for the child care subsidy program →We support an increase in wages for early childhood providers →We support efforts to increase appropriations for education reimbursement and for accreditation facilitation	CT - Connecticut Association for Human Services	Paul Gionfriddo	860-951-2212 ext. 235 pgionfriddo@cahs.org
→We are working on a statewide analysis from a financing perspective	CT - Connecticut Voices for Children	Dr. Peg Oliveira	203-498-4240
→Guarantee access to affordable, high quality community based child care services →Expand Early Home Visitation services designed to reduce the incidence of child abuse →Expand access to quality pre-K and Head Start programs	GA - Georgians for Children	Pam Runkle Wendi Clifton Ann Marchetti	404-479-4233 pam.runkle@qualitycareforchildren.org 404-870-6568 404-843-0017

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→Expand Great START (Strategy to Attract and Retain Teachers) →Create a new Illinois baby/toddler initiative →Update income eligibility for subsidized child care →Create universal access to preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds whose parents choose it →Increase access to child care by updating subsidy rates →Develop child care facilities in high-need areas →Expand all our Kids: Birth to Three Networks →Sustain crisis nurseries →Allow new parents to receive childcare subsidies directly if one parent stays at home the first year	IL - Voices for Illinois Children	Julie Zasadny	312-516-5551 jzasadny@voices4kids.org
→Increase financial support for early childhood education →Expand the Parents as Teachers and Healthy Start Home Visitor Programs →Implement a child care subsidy program that provides incentives for quality improvement	KS - Kansas Action for Children	Dodie Wellshear Johnson	785-232-0550 dodie@kac.org
→Childcare vouchers (called the Purchase of Care program) →Money to expand the Judy Hoyer program (early childhood education programs based in elementary schools), and for training for child care providers and accreditation for child care programs →Expand home visiting programs → All-day kindergarten	MD - Advocates for Children and Youth	Matthew Joseph	410-547-9200 ext. 3005 mjoseph@acy.org
→Support development and implementation of a fair, equitable and predictable system for setting child care rates	MD - Maryland Association of Resources for Families & Youth	Jim McComb Christina Feehan	410-974-4901 ext. 1 jmccomb@erols.com ext. 2 cgfeehan@yahoo.com
→Support the Early Care and Education Finance Commission recommendations	MN - Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota	Jim Koppel	651-227-6121 ext. 11 koppel@cdf-mn.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Raise the income eligibility of families for subsidized child care	MO - Citizens for Missouri's Children	Beth Griffin	314-647-2003 mbgrif@fastrans.net
➔Support quality, accessible early education so that all children enter school ready to learn ➔Include and fund universal, free public kindergarten ➔Include and fund parent education and early childhood education programs ➔Increase access of all families to quality child care ➔Implement a sliding fee scale for child care subsidies	NH - Children's Alliance of New Hampshire	Ellen Shemitz	603-225-2264 eshemitz@childrennh.org
➔Continue to enhance our state's pre-school education effort and augment it with a comprehensive early intervention initiative.	NJ - Association for Children of New Jersey	Ciro Scalera	973-643-3876 ext.106 ciro@acnj.org
➔Improve child care reimbursement ➔Increase the capacity of the Children, Youth and Families Division (CYFD) of the Office of Child Development ➔Expand number of sites for full school day kindergarten ➔Legislative memorial to investigate TEACH and similar initiatives and implement a compensation pilot program	NM - New Mexico Advocates for Children & Families	Bill Jordan and Kay Monaco	505-244-9505 bjordancc@aol.com kaymonaco@hotmail.com
➔Raise subsidy eligibility to 275% ➔Build additional capacity ➔Ensure quality through wage and education subsidies ➔Universal Pre-K implementation and funding security toward true universality	NY - Statewide Youth Advocacy, Inc.	Elie Ward	518-436-8525 ext. 23 esw@syanys.org
➔Universal pre-K ➔Access to quality, affordable child care ➔Facility expansion	NY - Citizens' Committee for Children of New York	Candice Anderson	212-673-1800 ext. 17 info@kfny.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Appropriate $3.2 million for the support and expansion of the Intensive Home Visitation Initiative ➔Fully fund Smart Start ➔Expand the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Project ➔Increase child care subsidies	NC - North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute	Paula Wolf	919-834-6623 ext. 227 wolf@covenant.g12.com
➔Initiate a rated child care license to improve quality ➔Support Ohio's mandate for AA degreed Head Start teachers through additional state funding ➔Expand Head Start income eligibility to support Head Start/child care partnerships	OH - Children's Defense Fund - Ohio	Chris Stoneburner	614-221-2244 ext. 120 cstoneburner@cdfohio.org
➔Support the development of a comprehensive, community-based early childhood care and education system ➔Expand and fund existing early childhood programs	OK - Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy	Anne Roberts	405-236-KIDS aroberts@oica.org
➔Develop a school readiness initiative ➔Encourage full-day kindergarten for at-risk children ➔Create a nurse Home Visiting program	PA - Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children	James Martin	717-236-5680 jmartin@papartnerships.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
State Initiatives ➜Support accreditation bills which provide increased reimbursement for improved child care ➜Support efforts to increase the salaries and benefits for child care workers ➜Support legislation to improve the education of child care workers, ➜Support legislation to improve the affordability of child care by increasing the eligibility for subsidy ➜Support legislation to eliminate programmatic barriers that prevent families from participating in child care ➜Support universal Pre-K programs ➜Support home visiting and family support efforts City Initiatives ➜Support efforts to increase the health and safety fund ➜Support the creation of facilities funding stream ➜Support efforts to expand family care slots ➜Create a unified child care license ➜Eliminate barriers that prevent families from accessing child care and providers from improving quality of their services ➜Support universal home visiting programs ➜Support efforts to develop a local quality enhancement fund ➜Support increase efforts to expand home visiting particularly for newborns ➜Support increased family and parenting programs	PA - Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth	Shelly Yanoff	215-563-5848 ext. 20 shellypccy@aol.com
➜Increase funding for early care and education through the state's Starting Right Program	RI - Rhode Island KIDS COUNT	Elizabeth Burke Bryant	401-351-9400 ext. 12 ebb@rikidscount.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Improve the quality of child care facilities by monitoring family care providers	SC - Alliance for South Carolina's Children	Ian Hamilton	803-256-4670 ext. 226 icham@bellsouth.net
➔Require family day care homes caring for seven or more children to be registered ➔Support Governor Janklow's proposal for $1 million in one-time funding to start out-of-school time care programs	SD - South Dakota Coalition for Children	Susan Randall	605-367-9667
➔Provide incentive funding to public/private multi-sector community partnerships ➔Focus on outcomes of quality early care and education	TX - Prevent Child Abuse	Wendell Teltow	512-250-8438 wteltow@preventchildabusetexas.org
➔Create an Office of Early Childhood Coordination	TX - Tarrant County Youth Collaboration	John Ross	817-831-2111
➔Increase local child care capacity and child care subsidies for all low-wage workers ➔Increase tax incentives for employer-sponsored or subsidized child care programs to increase the availability of quality, affordable childcare ➔Increase training requirements for registered family homes and licensed child care centers ➔Support full day kindergarten ➔Support universal pre-k services ➔Support the creation of an Office of Early Childhood Coordination at the Health and Human Services Commission ➔Increase funding for Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers	TX - Texans Care For Children	Susan Craven	512-419-7391 scraven@texas.net

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Support Governor's recommendation for subsidy rate increase ➔Support Governor's recommended use of increased federal block grant for infant-toddler care challenge grants to increase infant-toddler slots ➔Support funding for yearly accreditation, credential, or degree bonuses for quality child care providers and programs ➔Support funding for accommodation in child care for children with special needs	VT - The Vermont Children's Forum	Carlen Finn	802-229-6377
➔Accessing all available federal funding for child care subsidy programs. ➔Expanding eligibility criteria for child care subsidies and preschool funding. ➔Efforts to improve education, reduce turnover, and provide a worthy wage for child care workers. ➔Development of a statewide system of child care resource and referral. ➔Efforts to increase the health and safety of children in child care settings. ➔Development of a statewide public/private partnership to address the need for comprehensive planning in early care and education.	VA - The Action Alliance for Virginia's Children and Youth	Terri Christin Suzanne Johnson	804-649-0184 teresa@vakids.org suzanne@vakids.org
➔Revision of child care licensing standards to lower staff to child ratios and upgrade the qualifications of staff ➔Expand family support centers ➔Implement Educare projects in five areas	WV - West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund	Margie Hale	304-345-2101 hn3174@handsnet.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Provide state funding for a subsidy of child care wages to child care teachers ➔Increase the eligibility for child care subsidies ➔Lower the maximum co-payment to 10% and provide that families below the poverty level pay the minimum co-payment amount ➔Eliminate Birth to 3 and Family Support waiting lists	WI - Wisconsin Council on Children and Families	Jill Jacklitz	608-284-0580 ext. 305 jjacklitz@wccf.org

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Preserve current TANF funding for homeless youth	AZ - Children's Action Alliance	Beth Rosenberg	520-795-4199 ext. 206 brosenberg@azchildren.org
➔Institute a state Earned Income Credit to help low-income, working families be more self-sufficient and meet the basic needs of their children ➔Support the availability of affordable housing	CA - Children Now	Ming Leung	510-763-2444 ext. 117 mleung@childrennow.org
➔We support increased state funding of $170,000 for outreach activities for child nutrition programs ➔We support the establishment of a state supplement to the WIC program ➔We support expansion of emergency food assistance programs	CT - Connecticut Association for Human Services	Paul Gionfriddo	860-951-2212 ext. 235 pgionfriddo@cash.org
➔Refundable dependent care credit	CT - Connecticut Voice for Children	Shelley Geballe	203-498-4240 yalie4567@aol.com
➔Help low-income parents increase earnings through education and training opportunities	GA - Georgians for Children	Linda Lowe	770-259-7518
➔Expand funding for voluntary home visiting programs ➔Make the Illinois EITC refundable ➔Base the Illinois EITC on a higher percentage of the federal credit ➔Make the Illinois EITC permanent	IL - Voices for Illinois Children	Julie Zasadny	312-516-5551 jzasadny@voices4kids.org
➔Appropriate the unspent TANF funds	LA - Agenda for Children	Judy Watts	504-586-8509 jwatts@agendaforchildren.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Education and job skills for low-income working parents ➔Enhance the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and make it refundable ➔To help low-income families set up individual development accounts (IDAs) ➔Maryland refundable earned income tax credit: increase the percentage of refundability ➔Child support pass-throughs for TANF families (so low-income families can keep child support payments instead of the state)	MD - Advocates for Children and Youth	Matthew Joseph	410-547-9200 ext. 3005 mjosep@acy.org
➔Reintroduce our paid parental leave proposal ➔Establish a $500 state tax credit	MN - Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota	Jim Koppel	651-227-6121 ext. 11 koppel@cdf-mn.org
➔Enact a State Earned Income Tax Credit.	MO - Citizens for Missouri's Children	Ruth Ehresman	314-647-2003 ruth@fastrans.net
➔Educate eligible families about the federal earned income tax credit ➔Support efforts to raise the minimum wage ➔Appropriate state funds to obtain federal matching funds for the creation of affordable and adequate housing ➔Draw down and invest federal TANF surplus funds ➔Support expansion of unemployment insurance coverage to part-time workers ➔Support funding of a paid family and medical leave program from reliable and equitable sources ➔Support efforts to remove barriers and expand access to post-secondary education ➔Appropriate money (including TANF surplus funds) for the Homeless Prevention Fund	NH - Children's Alliance of New Hampshire	Ellen Shemitz	603-225-2264 eshemitz@childrennh.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→Recommend that our state launch a new effort to intervene early with special health, education and parent support programs →Expand the State Earned Income Tax Credit →Individual development accounts - A bill passed the Assembly and ACNJ is working with several groups to support its passage	NJ - Association for Children of New Jersey	Ciro Scalera	973-643-3876 ext. 106 ciro@acnj.org
→Review and recommend usury legislation and/or legislation to limit interest charged on short term loans, particularly tax refund loans →Legislation to limit the interest on paycheck and title loans →TANF reform to provide state financed safety net, including cash assistance, for those who are no longer eligible for TANF beginning in 2002 →State livable wage law that applies to state employees	NM - New Mexico Advocates for Children and Families	Bill Jordan	505-244-9505 bjordance@aol.com
→Support New York City's development of local Earned Income Tax Credit and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit →Develop and rehabilitate affordable housing units and promote home ownership →Call upon federal government to increase Section 8 housing subsidies and capital funding	NY - Citizens' Committee for Children of New York	Maria Toro	212-673-1800 ext 20 info@kfny.org
→Ensure that working families have access to jobs paying a living wage and that have benefits →Provide income supports to fill the gaps left by low-wages →Implement a state Earned Income Tax Credit →Increase the state minimum wage →Evaluate public assistance using measurements of family success not caseload decline	NC - North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute	Paula Wolf	919-834-6623 wolf@covenant.g12.com

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➜Support a refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and promote public education on eligibility for the federal EITC program.	OK - Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy	Anne Roberts	405-236-5437 aroberts@oica.org
State Initiatives ➜Monitor the impact on children and families of TANF and ASFA ➜Eliminate the permanent bar to support for persons who committed drug crimes	PA- Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth	Shelly Yanoff	215-563-5848 ext. 20 shellypccy@aol.com
➜State and local barriers to enrollment and participation in the food stamp program be identified and removed	TX - CHILDREN AT RISK	Barbara McCormick	713-869-7740 barbara@hern.org
➜Endorse the Center for Public Policy Priorities initiative to improve the support system for low-income families ➜Increase funding to reduce waiting lists for community services for children with disabilities ➜Increase Food Stamp outreach ➜Increase funding for food banks' distribution system and a statewide gleaning program ➜Increase funding for homeless programs	TX - Texans Care For Children	Susan Craven	512-419-7391 scraven@texas.net
➜Support paid parental leave legislation ➜Will monitor implementation of the welfare reform law to make sure that the state moves toward an independent evaluation of the laws effects	VT - The Vermont Children's Forum	Carlen Finn	802-229-6377
➜Raise the state's income tax threshold to 100% of the poverty level ➜Outreach to make families aware of EITC ➜Developing and implementing a program of education for TANF recipients	WV - West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund	Margie Hale	304-345-2101 hn3174@handsnet.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→Eliminate 2-year time limit for the W-2 Transitions category →Establish a pre-sanction review process →Allow one half of participants required work activity to consist of appropriate education and training →Allow part-time workers in unsubsidized employment to be eligible for a partial Community Service Job or W-2T benefit while participating in approved training →Do not require a job search if a person is making reasonable progress in an approved training program →Provide TANF grants to Second Chance Homes without judicial intervention for minors over age 16 →Allow child care for those in education and training without a work requirement →Improve transportation support for low-income workers →Support changes in Unemployment Compensation	WI - Wisconsin Council on Children and Families	Jill Jacklitz	608-284-0580 ext. 305 jjacklitz@wccf.org

EDUCATION

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→Continue expansion of the Alabama Reading Initiative	AL - VOICES for Alabama's Children	Linda Tilly	334-213-2410 ltilly@alavoices.org
→Our top priority in the 2001 session will be the implementation of Amendment 23, which requires legislature to fund K-12 education at inflation +1% →We will advocate for a menu of strategic investment options for the new Education Fund to reform the public education system →We will advocate for legislation that offers loan forgiveness ($2000 per year for 3 years) for math, science, and special education teachers	CO - Colorado Children's Campaign	Moira Cullen	303-839-1580 ext. 225 mcullen@qwest.net
→Maintain the state's funding commitment to Communities in Schools (CIS)	KS - Kansas Action for Children	Dodie Wellshear Johnson	785-232-0550 dodie@kac.org
→Increase in state share of school funding	ME - Maine Children's Alliance	Elinor Goldberg	207-623-1868 egoldberg@mekids.org
→Additional funding for in-school breakfast program →Additional funding for academic interventions for children at-risk of academic failure across the state →"Bridge" legislation to continue and expand providing targeted funds for Baltimore City and children at-risk of failure statewide →Funding for teacher mentoring →The remedy plan developed by the Baltimore City Public School System (requiring additional funding in order to provide an adequate education to Baltimore students) →Accountability reform →More money for academic services and transportation of special education students	MD - Advocates for Children and Youth	Matthew Joseph	410-547-9200 ext. 3005 mjoseph@acy.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Support administrative action and/or legislation to require Local Education Agencies to provide appropriate educations for children in state-supervised care and reasonable protections against suspensions and expulsions	MD - Maryland Association of Resources for Families & Youth	Jim McComb Christina Feehan	410-974-4901 ext. 1 jmccomb@erols.com ext. 2 cgfeehan@yahoo.com
➔Promote meaningful school reform ➔Seek funding to support a comprehensive assessment of all public school buildings ➔Foster links throughout the preschool through grade 12 education systems and with the post-secondary education system ➔Support the constitutional right of all students to an adequate education ➔Promote funding and implementation of best practice models for suspended or expelled students, drop-out prevention programs and school and community based prevention programs ➔Recognize and applaud efforts to define adequacy at a level which ensures a high quality education ➔Improve educational outcomes by developing and disseminating policies and best practices designed to encourage parents, students and citizens to become active partners in the education of all children ➔Identify and disseminate best practice school frameworks that effectively integrate family friendly, school-based services and expanded school hours to promote the optimal growth and development of children beginning at birth	NH - Children's Alliance of New Hampshire	Ellen Shemitz	603-225-2264 eshemitz@childrennh.org
➔Defeat legislation which allows voucher programs ➔Teaching Reading - improved teacher preparation programs so all students can read and write ➔Stringent implementation and accountability for Performance Counts	NM - New Mexico Advocates for Children and Families	Bill Jordan	505-244-9505 bjordancc@aol.com

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→Class size reduction	NY - Statewide Youth Advocacy, Inc.	Elie Ward	518-436-8525 ext. 23 esw@syanys.org
→Class size reduction	NY - Citizens' Committee for Children of New York	Candice Anderson	212-673-1800 ext. 17 info@kfny.org
→Statewide promotion standards should be fair and educationally sound, based on a meaningful assessment →Create a funding formula that provides additional funding for students who are on free or reduced lunch and are performing below grade level →Provide adequate funding for schools to educate Limited English Proficient (LEP) students →Provide adequate funding for children with disabilities →Improve alternative education by having the money follow the child →Ensure that students who are suspended and expelled are given the educational assistance needed to succeed	NC - North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute	Paula Wolf	919-834-6623 ext. 227 wolf@covenant.g12.com
→Implementation of Governor's Commission for Student Success Recommendations →Linking early literacy strategies for pre-k through 4	OH - Children's Defense Fund - Ohio	Erin Joyce	614-221-2244 ext. 129 ejoyce@cdfohio.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
State Initiatives ➜Support increased state funding for education ➜Support changed formulas based on equity ➜Support small class size and school building legislation ➜Support efforts to explore different special education funding and support changes in charter school funding City Initiatives ➜Support small class size expansion ➜Support implementation of a variety of efforts including site based strategies to secure more qualified teachers ➜Support efforts to improve and expand summer school programs and other opportunities to learn initiatives ➜Support increased funding for transportation to and from school for students ➜Watchdog and support efforts to improve the safety in schools, including removing lead from water and assuring as much safety as possible for students and teachers ➜Support the development of a new small youth study center	PA - Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth	Shelly Yanoff	215-563-5848 ext. 20 shellypccy@aol.com
➜Sustain and replicate truancy diversion programs	SC - Alliance for South Carolina's Children	Ian Hamilton	803-256-4670 ext. 226 icham@bellsouth.net
➜Truancy bill	UT - Utah Children	Roz McGee	801-364-1182 roz@utahchildren.net
➜Will oppose the continuing move toward charter schools ➜Will monitor attempts to appeal ACT 60	VT - The Vermont Children's Forum	Carlen Finn	802-229-6377
➜Reform education financing	WI - Wisconsin Council on Children and Families	Jill Jacklitz	608-284-0580 ext. 305 jjacklitz@wccf.org

HEALTH

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Expand funding for ALLKIDS (SCHIP) to identify and enroll all eligible children ➔Improve the eligibility procedure ➔Increase the physician reimbursement rate ➔Expand funding for data processing capabilities for Medicaid to adequately serve Alabama's children ➔Enact a multi-step drivers licensing procedure for 16-year-olds ➔Enact legislation requiring appropriate restraints in automobiles for children through 15 years of age	AL - VOICES for Alabama's Children	Linda Tilly	334-213-2410 ltilly@alavoices.org
➔Eliminate "6-month-go-bare" requirement for KidsCare ➔Remove prohibition on contracting with schools for KidsCare outreach ➔Implement Proposition 204 (expansion of Medicaid eligibility)	AZ - Children's Action Alliance	Laura Oven	602-266-0707 caa@azchildren.org
➔Universal health care for children	CA - Children's Advocacy Institute	Robert Fellmeth	619-260-4806 cpil@acusd.edu
➔Increase health coverage of children and their families via Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, respectively Medicaid and SCHIP	CA - Children Now	Ming Leung	510-763-2444 ext. 117 mleung@childrennow.org
➔Legislation that addresses the lack of dental services available to children enrolled in CHP+ or Medicaid ➔Legislation that increases the eligibility for families enrolling their children in CHP+ ➔Legislation that streamlines the state immunization system	CO - Colorado Children's Campaign	Moira Cullen	303-839-1580 ext. 225 mcullen@qwest.net

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→We support increased access to and participation in oral health programs →We support increased reimbursement under the Medicaid program for prenatal care →We support an increase in the eligibility standard for participation in the HUSKY (SCHIP) Program →We support the coordination and evaluation of adolescent pregnancy prevention programs in Connecticut	CT - Connecticut Association for Human Services	Paul Gionfriddo	860-951-2212 ext. 235 pgionfriddo@cahs.org
→Children's mental health	CT - Connecticut Voices for Children	Shelley Geballe	203-498-4240 valie4567@aol.com
→Expand Medicaid and PeachCare (SCHIP) coverage of children and add coverage for their parents	GA - Georgians for Children	Linda Lowe	770-259-7518
→Expand the intensive prenatal performance project →Provide parent health coverage to support working families	IL - Voices for Illinois Children	Julie Zasadny	312-516-5551 jzasadny@voices4kids.org
→Restore and increase Medicaid and public health funding to improve health care access →Expand school health clinics and nurse home visitation	LA - Agenda for Children	Judy Watts	504-586-8509 jwatts@agendaforchildren.org
→Public policy to support school based health centers in any school/community that wants them →Health insurance for all children and as many of the parents as possible →Support for tech schools to train support personnel for centers →Licensing of health centers to get private insurance reimbursements →Licensing of dental hygienists and nurse practitioners to practice unsupervised to provide screenings and a few other support issues	ME - Maine Children's Alliance	Elinor Goldberg	207-623-1868 egoldberg@mekids.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Improvements to HealthChoice ➔Expand health insurance coverage for pregnant women from 250% to 300% of the FPL ➔Loaner bank for hearing aids ➔Increase reimbursement rates for providers in the HealthChoice program ➔Health insurance coverage for working parents	MD - Advocates for Children and Youth	Matthew Joseph	410-547-9200 ext. 3005 mjoseph@acy.org
➔Encourage early identification and treatment of mental health and substance abuse problems among children and adolescents. ➔Demand full implementation of mental health and substance abuse screening for kids in the juvenile justice system ➔Support expanded funding for home and community-based mental health services for children and youth. ➔Support legislation to address needs of "stuck kids" in hospitals and residential treatment ➔Support expansion of the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program.	MD - Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth	Jim McComb Christina Feehan	410-974-4901 ext. 1 jmccomb@erols.com ext. 2 cgfeehan@yahoo.com
➔Expand the number of children covered by either MinnesotaCare or Medicaid	MN - Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota	Jim Koppel	651-227-6121 ext. 11 koppel@cdf-mn.org
➔Allow dental hygienists, who practice in a public health setting, to clean teeth and provide fluoride treatments and sealants to children who are Medicaid/MC+ eligible without the supervision of a dentist. ➔Allow physicians or pediatricians to be reimbursed for administering fluoride treatments to children during office visits. ➔Increase Medicaid/MC+ reimbursements to 75% of the usual and customary costs (UCR) of the dental/health care professional for cleaning teeth and providing fluoride treatments and sealants	MO - Citizens for Missouri's Children	Joe Squillace	314-647-2003 squillace@fastrans.net

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Improve access to health care ➔Support school-based preventive and primary health care ➔Assess access to and funding of comprehensive health care for incarcerated youth ➔Assess barriers to health disparities and accessing health care ➔Assure the long-term funding of Healthy Kids Silver ➔Develop statewide plan for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) prevention, intervention and treatment services ➔Increase education and support services ➔Increase the level of funding, ➔Increase access to comprehensive, ATOD, mental emotional, behavioral, and developmental health services ➔Increase support from parents, community leaders, and business for school and community based prevention programs ➔Promote health and sex education and parenting information in K-12 curriculum ➔Educate parents, pediatric providers and child care providers about healthy pregnancies and about the health, development and safety of young children ➔Educate the public regarding the benefits of community water fluoridation	NH - Children's Alliance of New Hampshire	Ellen Shemitz	603-225-2264 eshemitz@childrennh.org
➔Child proof handguns - A bill has passed the Senate and ACNJ is working with Ceasefire New Jersey to secure passage in the Assembly	NJ - Association for Children of New Jersey	Ciro Scalera	973-643-3876 ext. 106 ciro@acnj.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Support coverage of immigrant children without the use of federal dollars ➔Reform the Managed Care Act for behavioral health ➔Universal health care - Healthy Security for New Mexicans Campaign (New MexiCare) ➔Access to health and social services for undocumented persons ➔Legislation for safety locks and responsible gun ownership ➔Legislation to close the gun show loophole ➔Defeat legislation to allow the carrying of concealed weapons	NM - New Mexico Advocates for Children and Families	Bill Jordan	505-244-9505 bjordancc@aol.com
➔Input into the design of New York State's program for the new opportunities offered by the Chafee Independent Living Program - including taking the option for extended medicaid coverage for these kids ➔Reauthorization of children's health legislation - our Campaign for Healthy Children Agenda (for the full detailed agenda please contact State Youth Advocacy, Inc.)	NY - State Youth Advocacy, Inc.	Elie Ward	518-436-8525 ext. 23 esw@syanys.org
➔Lift mental health Medicaid spending cap ➔Settle RTF mental health lawsuit with provisions ➔Update mental health fiscal models and staffing structures	NY - Citizens' Committee for Children of New York	Tara Sher	212-673-1800 ext. 16 info@kfny.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Expand eligibility for NC Health Choice (SCHIP) to cover children below 350% of the FPL ➔Cover all eligible children regardless of immigrant status ➔Support the development and funding of a coordinated school health program ➔Ensure access to high quality and effective mental health and substance abuse services for child in need ➔Health insurance companies and public health programs should be required to offer mental health and substance abuse treatment equal in quality to treatment provided for physical illnesses ➔Support a uniform right to an independent appeal of any decision to deny treatment through an administrative process and the court system ➔Enact stronger protective legislation for child safety that includes automobile restraints and safety helmets ➔Clarify and strengthen laws that prevent children from gaining unsupervised, unsafe access to guns	NC - North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute	Paula Wolf	919-834-6623 ext. 227 wolf@covenant.g12.com
➔Medicaid/CHIP outreach, enrollment, and re-enrollment ➔Medicaid/CHIP 12-month eligibility, adjunctive eligibility ➔Medicaid expansion for parents	OH - Children's Defense Fund - Ohio	Mary Wachtel or Jenny Kattlove	614-221-2244 ext. 128 mwachtel@cdfohio.org ext. 131 jkattlove@cdfohio.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Raise Medicaid eligibility to 200% FPL ➔Provide for family coverage ➔Allow a buy-in for families between 200% and 250% FPL, with a provision allowing small businesses to participate in the buy-in with compensatory tax credits ➔Provide for 12-month continuous guaranteed coverage for Medicaid recipients ➔Increase the Medicaid-provider reimbursement rate to 100% of the current or annual Medicare provider reimbursement rate. ➔Establish a 5-year demonstration project to provide health services on school sites at the middle and high school levels, that target high-risk behaviors, in accordance with nationally recognized standards. ➔Repeal the state pre-emptive law that prohibits local communities from enacting tobacco-related ordinances that are more restrictive than state laws. ➔Fund the development and continuation of the interagency "System of Care" model for the delivery of mental health services to children and youth in Oklahoma communities.	OK - Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy	Anne Roberts	405-236-5437 aroberts@oica.org
➔Enroll all eligible children in CHIP or Medical Assistance	PA - Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children	James Martin	717-236-5680 jmartin@papartnerships.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
State Initiatives ➜Continue efforts to monitor and maximize the number of children covered by health insurance ➜Support legislation that increases the resources and efficacy of lead poison prevention programs and efforts ➜Increase the support for early intervention and mental health programs ➜Support new strategies to improve dental health care City Initiatives ➜Support efforts to increase funding streams and strategies to protect children from lead poisoning and violence, particularly guns ➜Support programs that provide mental health and dental capacity for children ➜Monitor and report on the utilization of health clinics	PA - Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth	Shelly Yanoff	215-563-5848 ext. 20 shellypccy@aol.com
➜Increase coverage and funding for Children's Health Insurance through the state's RIte Care program ➜Increase funding to increase access to dental care for low-income children ➜Increase in funding for programs to prevent childhood lead poisoning ➜Increase in funding for Children's Mental Health programs and improved coordination of the administration of Children's Mental Health Services ➜Work with legislative leaders to develop new gun safety legislation	RI - Rhode Island KIDS COUNT	Dorothy Stamper Elizabeth Burke Bryant Cyd McKenna Catherine Walsh Laura Beavers	401-351-9400 rikids@rikidscount.org ext. 12 ebb@rikidscount.org rikids@rikidscount.org ext. 14 cbwalsh@rikidscount.org rikids@rikidscount.org
➜Expand children's health care coverage ➜Support primary enforcement of seatbelt law for children ➜Obtain permanent funding for Healthy Families SC	SC - Alliance for South Carolina's Children	Ian Hamilton	803-256-4670 ext. 226 icham@bellsouth.net
➜Require children ages 5 to 17 to buckle up when traveling in a motor vehicle and make enforcement a petty offense	SD - South Dakota Coalition for Children	Susan Randall	605-367-9667

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→All local and state barriers to enrollment and participation in health insurance coverage for low-income children be identified and removed →Medicaid simplification →State outreach programs for Medicaid and CHIP should be expanded with increased funding →Urge the legislature to support the full implementation of the Texas Health Steps program	TX - CHILDREN AT RISK	Barbara McCormick	713-869-7740 barbara@hern.org
→Increase funding for mental health beds within children's hospitals →Increase funding for Healthy Families	TX - Prevent Child Abuse	Wendell Teltow	512-250-8438 wteltow@preventchildabusetexas.org
→Simplification of children's Medicaid eligibility policy →Bring equity in mental health funding for Tarrant County →Increase access to dental care for children →Create a beer keg registration requirement	TX - Tarrant County Youth Collaboration	Linda Ragsdale Kristi Lewis Ginny Hickman Brad Ward	817-882-8005 817-871-4816 817-870-7404 817-988-2390
→Simplify Medicaid eligibility →Increase funding for "TexCare Partnership" marketing and outreach →Increase access to dental and primary care services by increasing the reimbursement rate →Increase funding for child mental health services →Expand Medicaid to foster care youth ages 18-21 →Enact graduated driver's licensing →Increase funding to the Immunization Fund →Continued support and funding for school-based health clinics →Strengthen child car safety requirements →Include safety equipment such as car seats and bicycle helmets in the back-to-school tax holiday →Support a school diet/obesity/diabetes control initiative	TX - Texans Care For Children	Susan Craven	512-419-7391 scraven@texas.net

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Passenger restrictions for youth ➔Graduated driver's licenses	UT - Utah Children	Roz McGee	801-364-1182 roz@utahchildren.org
➔Increase gun safety through supporting the passage of the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Medical Society's Child Access Prevention bill ➔Will support increasing reimbursement to dentists who serve Medicaid patients ➔Support protecting a youth's right to abortion without parental notification ➔Support funding for adolescent substance abuse assessment and treatment programs	VT - The Vermont Children's Forum	Carlen Finn	802-229-6377
➔Increasing the number of hours of child psychiatry available to all Community Services Boards in the Commonwealth. ➔Efforts to prevent youth suicide through education, awareness, training and intervention services. ➔Increasing the availability and accessibility of community-based mental health services for children and adolescents in the Commonwealth ➔Limiting children's access to firearms	VA - The Action Alliance for Virginia's Children and Youth	Margaret Nimmo Mary Nienow	804-649-0184 margaret@vakids.org mary@vakids.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔We will promote legislation to use federal CHIP funding to create new slots in the Basic Health Plan (BHP) for parents and expand subsidized BHP eligibility to 250% of the federal poverty level ➔We will seek $3 million in state funding to maintain current health care access and education services that ensure that families know about coverage that is available to them ➔We will seek $2.9 million in state funds to prevent further loss of vital services - such as nutritional education and health care referrals to high-risk newborns and their mothers. These funds will go directly to individual WIC clients to prevent closure and to consolidate sites around the state	WA - Children's Alliance	Paul Barry	206-324-0340 ext. 15 paul@childrensalliance.org
➔Expand health care coverage for low-income adults by applying state options under existing federal programs ➔Adopt policies to assure enrollment of those currently eligible for CHIP and Medicaid ➔Coordinate publicly-funded health coverage for children (Medicaid and CHIP)	WV - West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund	Margie Hale	304-345-2101 hn3174@handsnet.org
➔Increase Badger Care (CHIP) eligibility ➔Eliminate the Medical Assistance Assets test ➔Support state funded screening of newborns ➔Expand access to dental care ➔Support comprehensive mental health/ substance abuse parity legislation ➔Oppose legislation that provides the gun industry with protection from litigation	WI - Wisconsin Council on Children and Families	Jill Jacklitz	608-284-0580 ext. 305 jjacklitz@wccf.org

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→Initiate a plan to place licensed social workers in all schools	AL - VOICES for Alabama's Children	Linda Tilly	334-213-2410 ltilly@alvoices.org
→Provide TANF funding for quality after school programs	AZ - Children's Action Alliance	Dana Naimark	602-266-0707 ext. 202 dnaimark@azchildren.org
→Improve access to affordable, high quality after-school programs for children and youth	CA - Children Now	Ming Leung	510-763-2444 ext. 117 mleung@childrennow.org
→Expand access to affordable, high quality out-of-school activities →Guarantee the delivery of services to children and youth by fully utilizing the Early Prevention, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program →Implement a coordinated interagency system for services to children and families →Fund local initiatives aimed at reducing pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease among teens	GA - Georgians for Children	Meg Kerr Linda Lowe Ann Marchetti Michele H. Ozumba	770-441-3923 770-259-7518 404-843-0017 404-475-6047
→Reform and Stabilize the Early Intervention (EI) System	IL - Voices for Illinois Children	Julie Zasadny	312-516-5551 jzasadny@voices4kids.org
→Allow state employees (full-time, with benefits) to use 52 hours per year (average 1 hour per week) for participating in youth mentoring programs – such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and Youth Friends – and in school volunteerism.	KS - Kansas Action for Children	Dodie Wellshear Johnson	785-232-0550 dodie@kac.org
→Increase the After School Opportunity Fund →Increase funds for cost-effective alternatives to school suspensions and expulsions	MD - Advocates for Children and Youth	Matthew Joseph	401-547-9200 ext. 3005 mjoseph@acy.org
→Create an emphasis on youth development using community-based programs and services	MD - Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth	Jim McComb	410-974-4901 ext. 1 jmccomb@erols.com
→Establish educational programs to reduce teen pregnancies	NV - The Children's Advocacy Alliance	Donna Husted	702-450-7450

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
→Develop teen programming focused on asset building strategies →Provide teens with a full range of community-based sexuality education and family planning services →Work with service providers to have in place quality parent education and support services →Enact legislation to support, expand and fund early intervention and prevention programs	NH - Children's Alliance of New Hampshire	Ellen Shemitz	603-225-2264 eshemitz@childrennh.org
→Work with regional planning committees and other local leaders to develop community plans that include voluntary supports for families	NJ - Association for Children of New Jersey	Ciro Scalera	973-643-3876 ext. 106 ciro@acnj.org
→Increase referral capacity	NM - New Mexico Advocates for Children & Families	Bill Jordan	505-244-9505 bjordancc@aol.com
→Create a Youth Development Fund for after-school and summer programs →Establish an Office of Prevention →Expand the family center initiative	PA - Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children	James Martin	717-236-5680 jmartin@papartnerships.org
State Initiatives →Support statewide youth development funding at the legislative and administrative level of at least $15 million City Initiatives →Support the creation of Children's Funds in the city to support children and family programs →Support increased family and parenting programs in every neighborhood in the city	PA - Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth	Shelly Yanoff	215-563-5848 ext. 20 shellypccy@aol.com
→Increase prevention oriented funding to the Department of Children, Youth and Families	RI - Rhode Island KIDS COUNT	Dorothy Stamper	401-351-9400 rikids@rikidscount.org
→Support the budget appropriation request of Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to expand prevention and earlier intervention programs for at-risk children and youth	TX - CHILDREN AT RISK	Barbara McCormick	713-869-7740 barbara@hern.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Increase funding to reduce teen pregnancy ➔Target and prioritize increased funding for effective (research-based) prevention and early intervention programs and services for youth	TX - Prevent Child Abuse	Wendell Teltow	512-250-8438 wteltow@preventchildabusetexas.org
➔Expand capacity in prevention and treatment programs to reduce future demands on CPS ➔Expand services for at-risk youth such as the STAR program ➔Increase funding for mentoring programs ➔Increase funding for the United Way 211 initiative, a statewide information and referral system of public and non-profit services ➔Drop-out prevention initiatives such as decreasing student-teacher ratios, and mandatory drop-out reporting ➔Increased funding for early childhood intervention services	TX - Texans Care For Children	Susan Craven	512-419-7391 scraven@texas.net
➔Will introduce legislation to form a Youth Commission to promote public policy that supports positive youth development ➔Support continued funding for the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth programs	VT - The Vermont Children's Forum	Carlen Finn	802-229-6377
➔Prevention efforts with documented effectiveness that provide parent training and support services for families ➔Efforts to provide quality programs and activities for school-aged children in non-school hours	VA - The Action Alliance for Virginia's Children and Youth	Margaret Nimmo Suzanne Johnson	804-649-0184 mainline margaret@vakids.org ext. 26 suzanne@vakids.org

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Community-based delinquency prevention programs ➔Create an independent oversight body to ensure full access to all aspects of Maryland's juvenile justice system ➔Set time limits for keeping adjudicated youth in detention ➔Give the juvenile court authority to review all cases of youth accused of crimes as adults ➔Require Department of Juvenile Justice to implement Juvenile Detention Standards in all of its facilities ➔To stop over representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system	MD - Advocates for Children and Youth	Matthew Joseph	410-547-9200 ext. 3005 mjoseph@acy.org
➔Stop the improper use of secure detention ➔Prevent juveniles from being transferred to the adult criminal justice system. ➔Reduce the over representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system ➔Restore to local jurisdictions, the authority and resources needed to intervene in the lives of their children who are at risk.	MD - Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth	Jim McComb Christina Feehan	410-974-4901 ext. 1 jmccomb@erols.com ext.2 cgfeehan@yahoo.com
➔Reconsider the requirement that parents reimburse counties for services provided in child protection, CHINS and delinquency cases ➔Raise the age of prosecution for adult offenses back to 18 years	NH - Children's Alliance of New Hampshire	Ellen Shemitz	603-225-2264 eshemitz@childrennh.org
➔The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention should work to improve the conditions in youth academies (training schools) and the treatment programs within them to reduce recidivism	NC - North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute	Paula Wolf	919-834-6623 ext. 227 wolf@covenant.g12.com

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
State Initiatives ➜Support efforts to open up the courts more and reduce the adult certification of juveniles City Initiatives ➜Support efforts to increase the number, training, and capabilities of the judges and staff in Family Court	PA - Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth	Shelly Yanoff	215-563-5848 ext. 20 shellypccy@aol.com
➜Pursue accreditation with the American Corrections Association for South Dakota's juvenile corrections facilities and programs	SD - South Dakota Coalition for Children	Susan Randall	605-367-9667
➜Oppose state take-over of Juvenile Justice system	WI - Wisconsin Council on Children and Families	Jill Jacklitz	608-284-0580 ext. 305 jjacklitz@wccf.org

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND/TOBACCO $

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Protect the tobacco funds currently funding children's programs	AL - VOICES for Alabama's Children	Linda Tilly	334-213-2410 ltilly@alavoices.org
➔Expand Health Start and Healthy Families with funding from Proposition 204	AZ - Children's Action Alliance	Dana Naimark	602-226-0707 ext. 202 dnaimark@azchildren.org
➔Secure at least 20% of the Missouri Tobacco Settlement for quality early care and youth development programs. ➔Assure that this money does not supplant state or federal money that currently supports these program.	MO - Citizens for Missouri's Children	Elizabeth Gains	314-647-2003 egains@fastrans.net
➔Appropriate use of tobacco settlement funds	NM - New Mexico for Children and Families	Bill Jordan	504-244-9505 bjordancc@aol.com
➔Dedicate one-third of the annual tobacco settlement payments to the Tobacco Prevention and Reduction Trust Fund to provide a long term source of funding for a comprehensive, sustained tobacco prevention program	SD - South Dakota Coalition for Children	Susan Randall	605-367-9667
➔Expand interest bearing account from tobacco settlement for the purpose of ensuring the health, safety, and well being of Texas children, youth and families	TX - Prevent Child Abuse	Wendell Teltow	512-250-8438 wteltow@preventchildabusetexas.org
➔Dedicate tobacco settlement funds to programs for children's physical and mental health ➔Dedicate funds to the development of a statewide tobacco prevention and control program targeting youth	TX - Texans Care For Children	Susan Craven	512-419-7391 scraven@texas.net

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔We shall be engaged in budget advocacy	CA - Children's Advocacy Institute	Robert Fellmeth	619-260-4806 cpil@acusd.edu
.➔Implement a pilot for service coordination developed in the Children's Cabinet Advisory Committee.	LA - Agenda for Children	Judy Watts	504-586-8509 jwatts@agendaforchildren.org
➔Continue to advocate for a more comprehensive reform of public agency systems ➔Ensure interagency collaboration ➔Advocate for increased responsibility and authority at the local level ➔Advocate for effective representation by consumers, advocates and service providers on Local Management Boards. ➔Promote a "results-based" service delivery system. ➔Advocate for and support the effective measurement of results and outcomes for individual providers and for systems of care and services ➔Seek appropriate levels of funding for child welfare, juvenile justice, children's health and mental health and education programs and services for children, youth and families.	MD - Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth	Jim McComb Christina Feehan	410-974-4901 ext. 1 jmccomb@erols.com ext. 2 cgfeehan@yahoo.com
➔Work together to create a continuum of voluntary services ➔Invest in the use of community buildings, including school buildings, for all types of positive child and youth activities ➔Develop clear protocols to improve interagency coordination at both the state and local level for families involved in multiple systems of care ➔Work with regional planning committees and other local leaders to develop community plans	NH - Children's Alliance of New Hampshire	Ellen Shemitz	603-225-2264 eshemitz@childrennh.org

Specific Issue	*State/NACA Member*	*Contact Person*	*Phone/E-mail Information*
➔Capital outlay requests for targeted neighborhood associations	NM - New Mexico Advocates for Children & Families	Bill Jordan	505-244- 9505 bjordancc@aol.com
➔Reauthorization of FACT (Families, Agencies, and Communities Together)	UT - Utah Children	Roz McGee	801-364-1182 roz@utahchildren.org
➔We will seek funding for four community-based demonstration projects that will provide care management to families in crisis and their adolescent children	WA - Children's Alliance	Paul Barry	206-324-0340 ext. 15 paul@childrensalliance.org
➔Support inflationary increase for community aids ➔Increase state funding of Youth Aids	WI - Wisconsin Council on Children and Families	Jill Jacklitz	608-284-0580 ext. 305 jjacklitz@wccf.org

NACA Members' Legislative Priorities by State

ALABAMA
VOICES FOR ALABAMA'S CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Support higher subsidies, expand eligibility, and additional licensing of staff**
- **Provide funding for expansion of voluntary 4K preschool programs under the Office of School Readiness at the Department of Children's Affairs**

HEALTH

- **Expand funding for ALLKIDS (SCHIP) to identify and enroll all eligible children**
- **Improve the eligibility procedure**
- **Increase the physician reimbursement rate**
- **Expand funding for data processing capabilities for Medicaid to adequately serve Alabama's children**
- **Enact a multi-step drivers licensing procedure for 16-year-olds**
- **Enact legislation requiring appropriate restraints in automobiles for children through 15 years of age**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Raise payments to foster homes, group homes, and child care institutions**

EDUCATION

- **Continue expansion of the Alabama Reading Initiative**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

- **Initiate a plan to place licensed social workers in all schools**

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND USE

- **Protect the tobacco funds currently funding children's programs**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Linda Tilly 334-213-2410 ltilly@alavoices.org

ARIZONA
CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Establish voluntary consumer protection system for home-based child care businesses** - CAA supports legislation to establish voluntary registration for home-based child care businesses caring for four or fewer children. To be listed on the voluntary Child Care Resource and Referral data base, child care providers would have to pass a criminal fingerprint check and must have no substantiated incidents of child abuse or neglect. Without this legislation, parents have no way to check on the background of providers – even those who are being referred through the state-funded referral system.

➔ **Increase child care subsidy rates to reflect today's costs of child care** – CAA supports an increased appropriation for child care subsidies, raising the rates to the 75th percentile of the 2000 market rates and providing sufficient funds so that all working parents who meet the income requirements can get child care subsidies with no waiting list. Current subsidy rates are based on 1996 child care costs, even though costs have risen 18% or more since then.

➔ **Hire additional child care surveyors** – Currently, DHS has one surveyor to inspect every 100 child care facilities for health and safety standards; the national average is one surveyor for every 50 facilities. One in five child care facilities – 500 facilities – has gone without the required annual inspection. CAA supports the DHS budget request for $2.9 million over two years to improve the caseload to one surveyor for every 70 facilities.

➔ **Amend Students First to help schools provide classrooms for preschool and full day kindergarten** – Quality preschool and full day kindergarten programs help children start school ready to learn. But the Students First law makes it very difficult for schools to provide space for these programs because these students are not counted in the formula for school space and capital funding. This problem will lead to crowded and growing school districts removing classrooms for preschool and full day kindergarten programs. CAA supports legislation to count preschool and full day kindergarten students in the Students First formula for school districts with high participation in the school lunch program.

HEALTH

➔ **Eliminate "6-month-go-bare" requirement for KidsCare** – CAA supports legislation to eliminate the requirement that children must be uninsured for at least six months before they can be eligible for KidsCare coverage. This requirement is unfair and unhealthy for families who have been struggling to pay for health coverage for their children, many of them with chronic illnesses. One third of the states have no "go bare" requirement and the percentage of families who have moved from private coverage to publicly-subsidized coverage has been very small.

➔ **Remove prohibition on contracting with schools for KidsCare outreach** – CAA supports legislation to remove this prohibition so that schools can be full partners in KidsCare outreach. Arizona is returning millions of unspent federal KidsCare dollars even though we continue to have the highest rate of uninsured children in the nation. Community outreach is helping thousands more children get the health coverage they need, but many school districts are reluctant to participate because of this

provision.

➔ **Implement Proposition 204** – Arizona voters passed Proposition 204 which requires the expansion of AHCCCS (Medicaid) eligibility to all Arizonans with incomes below the federal poverty level. CAA supports the timely and complete implementation of this expanded health coverage.

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **Hire 110 additional child protective services staff and enhance staff training** – Abused and neglected children depend on CPS staff for protection and for finding safe and permanent homes. These children are suffering because CPS staff have inadequate training, overwhelming caseloads, little support, and a turnover rate of over 20%. Only half of the children living in foster care are receiving the required minimum of one visit per month from a CPS caseworker. CAA supports the DES budget requests for $6.4 million over two years to hire 110 additional caseworkers and support staff and for $5.2 million over two years to establish a CPS Training Academy.

➔ **Increase funding for children's services line item in Child Protective Services budget** – More than half of the cases with substantiated incidents of child abuse or neglect are closed immediately with no case management follow-up to make sure that children are safe. CAA supports increased funding from the state general fund to allow case management and follow-up services to all families with substantiated cases of abuse or neglect.

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **Preserve current TANF funding for homeless youth** – More than 5,000 Arizona youth are homeless each year. CAA supports the current funding level for the Homeless Youth Intervention Program to provide essential services for these vulnerable young people. To hold TANF funding level, an annual appropriation of $535,000 is required.

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Provide TANF funding for quality after school programs** -- Nationally, more than four in ten children ages 12-14 are home alone after school on a regular basis. Research shows that youths who have no adult supervision in these after school hours are more likely to become victims of crimes and engage in risky behavior. Yet, Arizona parents have few options. CAA supports legislation and a $5 million dollar appropriation to expand quality after school activities.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND USE

➔ **Expand Health Start and Healthy Families with funding from Proposition 204** – Proposition 204 allocates tobacco settlement funding to Health Start and Healthy Families. CAA supports maintaining existing general fund dollars for Health Start and Healthy Families as well as expanding the programs with the tobacco settlement funds.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Dana Naimark at 602-2660707 ext. 202 or dnaimark@azchildren.org

CALIFORNIA
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

HEALTH

➔ **Universal health care for children** - California, as with most states, is about to send most of its federal CHIP funds back to Washington. Over $500 million so far. At the same time, less than 7% of the state's children are uncovered AND are ineligible for Medicaid and CHIP funds. To prevent that 7% from getting undeserved benefits, the state spends millions of dollars on 14 separate and fragmented programs, each one filtering out the ineligible, and tries to sign up children one at a time, with substantial premiums required. We propose to reverse the process. All children are in, period. All public health is provided to all. Where a given child receives more than $5,000 in services in a year, parents are required to certify their income and will be billed on a sliding scale post hoc. The enormous savings from ending the barriers to entry plus left over CHIP monies will be committed to a tax credit to employers and employees who provide coverage for dependents to reduce "crowd out" from private coverage to public subsidy.

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **Enactment of family foster care enhancement legislation** - This measure would increase compensation for family foster care providers - now below cost. These persons are the source of 80% of adoptions which occur, but their supply has declined as the foster care population has increased. Meanwhile, group homes, with traditionally strong lobbying in Sacramento, receive ten times the compensation per child. The legislation would ban the categorization of children as "unadoptable" and implement measures to enhance the expertise and competence of family foster care providers.

➔ **Enactment of post-emancipation foster care education legislation** - As foster care kids emancipate out of the system the state abdicates a responsible parental role and essentially abandons them. We support legislation that will continue foster care payments to parents where children remain at home so long as they are students in good standing at any accredited vocational, junior college or other training or higher education program. It would also pay all tuition and other costs, and room and board if the child cannot remain with the foster family.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

➔ **We shall be engaged in budget advocacy**, promoting a $13 billion supplemental "Children's Budget" to invest surplus funds in our children.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Robert Fellmeth at 619-260-4806 or cpil@acusd.edu

CALIFORNIA
CHILDREN NOW

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Improve access to affordable, high quality child care**

HEALTH

➔ **Increase health coverage of children and their families via Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, respectively Medicaid and SCHIP**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **Institute a state Earned Income Credit to help low-income, working families be more self-sufficient and meet the basic needs of their children**
➔ **Support the availability of affordable housing**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Improve access to affordable, high quality after-school programs for children and youth**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Ming Leung at 510-763-2444 ext. 117 or mleung@childrennow.org

COLORADO
COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

Rough Draft

HEALTH

➔ **Legislation that addresses the lack of dental services available to children enrolled in CHP+ or Medicaid**, including: 1) Allowing dental hygienists to bill Medicaid for educational and preventive services without requiring a dentist's authorization within the scope of the Colorado Dental Practice Act, 2) Replicate and/or expand existing systems for dental care that serve under served populations (i.e. dental clinics)

➔ **Legislation that increases the eligibility for families enrolling their children in CHP+** to 200% of FPL and replaces the existing monthly premium structure with an annual fee ($25 for 1 child/ $35 for 2 or more children) for enrolling families.

➔ **Legislation that streamlines the state immunization system** by creating a vaccine company which purchases and stores vaccines and maintains immunization records.

EDUCATION

➔ **Our top priority in the 2001 session will be the implementation of Amendment 23**, which requires the Legislature to fund K-12 education at the rate of inflation plus 1%.

➔ **We will advocate for a menu of strategic investment options for the new Education Fund to reform the public education system**, improve its quality, and promote the turn-around of "D" and "F" schools. This menu may include items such as assistance for local districts for purchasing textbooks, teacher training and incentives, full-day kindergarten for failing schools, and creating a "rainy day" fund for the future.

➔ **We will advocate for legislation that offers loan forgiveness** ($2000 per year for 3 years) to teachers that teach math, science and special education in the Colorado public schools.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Moira Cullen at 303-839-1580 ext. 225 or mcullen@qwest.net

CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN SERVICES

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **We support increased dollars for the child care subsidy program** In the short run, this increased support will reduce the financial burden on lower income working families and, in the long run, put more dollars into the child care economy

➔ **We support an increase in wages for early childhood providers**

➔ **We support efforts to increase appropriations for education reimbursement and for accreditation facilitation** as a way of providing dollars directly to quality providers

HEALTH

➔ **We support increased access to and participation in oral health programs** for all children in Connecticut

➔ **We support increased reimbursement under the Medicaid program for prenatal care**

➔ **We support an increase in the eligibility standard for participation in the HUSKY (SCHIP) Program from 150% of poverty to 300% of poverty**

➔ **We support the coordination and evaluation of adolescent pregnancy prevention programs** in Connecticut

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **We support increased state funding of $170,000 for outreach activities** to raise participation in child nutrition programs

➔ **We support the establishment of a state supplement to the WIC program** so that every child age 0-3 up to 300% of poverty can receive WIC services

➔ **We support expansion of emergency food assistance programs**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Paul Gionfriddo at 860-951-2212 ext. 235 or pgoinfriddo@cahs.org

CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➜ **We are working on a statewide analysis from a financing perspective** and are part of a legislative coalition forming around wage and compensation issues. There is also legislative interest in "universal Pre-K."

HEALTH

➜ **Children's Mental Health** - Having served on this past year's Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Mental Health, we will work to seek a patient's bill of rights for children and their families, the inclusion of consumers on boards and governing entities in the children's mental health system, and for expanded home and community services rather than our continued push toward residential care and institutional placements.

CHILD WELFARE

➜ **Financial Supports for Kinship Care** - We continue to work to provide financial support to grandparents raising their grandchildren (as well as other forms of kinship care) at the level of CT's foster care payments to strangers and without making the grandparents become child welfare cases directly. There is now a legislative task force working on this and a Kinship Care Coalition.

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➜ **Tax and Finance** - We are going to be working affirmatively on a refundable dependent care credit, and will continue our coalition work on other financial assistance for low-income working families, EITC and IDAs among these. We also expect to examining CT's continued push for corporate tax benefits but not family tax benefits.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Shelly Geballe at 203-498-4240 or yalie4567@aol.com and Dr. Peg Oliveira at 203-498-4240

GEORGIA
GEORGIANS FOR CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Guarantee access to affordable, high quality community based child care services**
- **Expand Early Home Visitation services designed to reduce the incidence of child abuse**
- **Expand access to quality pre-K and Head Start programs**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Strengthen Georgia's Child Protective Services' capacity to protect children from abuse and neglect**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

- **Help low-income parents increase earnings through education and training opportunities**

HEALTH

- **Expand Medicaid and PeachCare (SCHIP) coverage of children and add coverage for their parents**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

- **Expand access to affordable, high quality out-of-school activities**
- **Guarantee the delivery of services to children and youth by fully utilizing the Early Prevention, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program**
- **Implement a coordinated interagency system for services to children and families**
- **Fund local initiatives aimed at reducing pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease among teens**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Karen Worthington at 404-727-6664, Pam Runkle at 404-479-4233 or pam.runkle@qualitycare.org, Wendi Clifton at 404-870-6568, Ann Marchetti at 404-843-0017, Linda Lowe at 770-259-7518, Michele H. Ozumba at 404-475-6047, and Meg Kerr at 770-441-3923.

ILLINOIS
VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Expand Great START (Strategy to Attract and Retain Teachers)** - Address the child care staffing crisis by increasing Great START funding by $22 million to provide meaningful salary enhancements to a larger number of qualified early childhood professionals in Illinois.

➔ **Create a New Illinois Baby / Toddler Initiative** - Expand access to high-quality care by modifying the rate structure for licensed providers, increasing the capacity of local Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, and making small grants available for care givers to buy equipment. Improve quality by funding pilot projects to improve license-exempt home care through expanded training and support linked to increased rates, increasing opportunities for birth-to-3 training and technical assistance, and expanding baby / toddler family child care networks.

➔ **Update Income Eligibility for Subsidized Child Care** - Update income eligibility figures to current year and provide for future annual updating. Also, support families until they can afford the full cost of care.

➔ **Create Universal Access to Preschool for 3- and 4-Year-Olds Whose Parents Choose It** - First steps in establishing a policy of voluntary universal access to preschool services include: 1) Establish a broad-based Task Force on Universal Access to Preschool to craft an implementation plan by Sept. 1, 2001, 2) Allow a diverse array of providers to directly apply for and receive state Pre-Kindergarten funds in FY 2002, and 3) Increase the Illinois State Board of Education's Early Childhood Education Block Grant by 20% -- or $36 million – in FY 2002.

➔ **Increase Access to Child Care by Updating Subsidy Rates** - Update rates based on the forthcoming IDHS market rate survey to allow families to choose from among three-quarters of the licensed care in their community.

➔ **Develop Child Care Facilities in High-Need Areas** - Establish a state-funded, non-profit Child Care Capital Grants Fund to increase licensed care and parent choice throughout Illinois.

➔ **Expand All Our Kids: Birth to Three Networks** - Continue investing in the existing 10 networks that ensure all families with young children receive the services they need and expand the networks to an additional six communities.

➔ **Sustain Crisis Nurseries** - Increase funding to ensure that the five crisis nurseries in Illinois that provide respite and short-term care for families coping with a crisis are fully operational and serving all families in need.

➔ **Allow New Parents to Spend the First Year at Home** - Support new parents' choice to stay home to nurture their baby by creating First Year at Home, which redirects child care subsidies to low-income families where one parent chooses to stay at home. Families that qualify could receive $3,000 a year.

HEALTH

➔ **Expand the Intensive Prenatal Performance Project** - Expand funding for the Intensive Prenatal Performance Project to additional family case management sites throughout Illinois to assure

better birth outcomes.

➔ **Provide Parent Health Coverage to Support Working Families** - Expand state health insurance coverage to low-income, working parents of KidCare-eligible children to support entire families in leading healthy and productive lives.

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **Strengthen New Families** - Expand funding for voluntary home visiting programs that build stronger families and raise healthier children (Increase Healthy Families line by $2.5 million, Parents Too Soon line by $500,000).

➔ **Make the Illinois EITC refundable:** The new Illinois EITC only offsets income taxes, so a family's EITC benefit cannot exceed what they pay in income taxes. A refundable Illinois EITC would boost the incomes of low-income working families because families would receive a refund check if the value of its EITC exceeds its tax bill. Finally, up to 20% of the 765,000 families and individuals in Illinois that currently receive the federal EITC will not benefit from the 5% non-refundable credit because they have incomes too low to owe state income taxes.

➔ **Base the Illinois EITC on a higher percentage of the federal credit:** A state EITC becomes a more effective public policy in support of working families when the size of the credit increases. While the average $60 state EITC provides modest relief to families at the low end of the economic scale, a 20% refundable EITC would provide an average benefit of $354—a far more explicit recognition that low-wages do not always provide adequate family support. A larger EITC does far more to help families' economic stability. Illinois joins Oregon and Maine as the only other states with a 5% non-refundable EITC—the smallest three state EITCs in the nation.

➔ **Make the Illinois EITC permanent:** The FY 2001 budget calls for an EITC to sunset after tax year 2002. As it stands, low- and moderate-income families face a tax increase in 2003. If supporting work over the long-term for eligible families is the desired objective, then a refundable Illinois EITC should become a permanent approach toward targeted tax relief and taking the next step in welfare reform.

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Reform and Stabilize the Early Intervention (EI) System** - Ensure all children who need services get them without waiting in line. Reform and stabilize the EI system with consideration to quality assurance that monitors services and progress over time, service delivery that emphasizes measurable goals and encourages parent participation and providers with appropriate birth-to-3 experience. Fully fund the EI system to appropriately meet the needs of all eligible children.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Julie Zasadny at 312-516-5551 or jzasadny@voices4kids.org

KANSAS
KANSAS ACTION FOR CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

Rough Draft

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Increase financial support for early childhood education** - Expand the discretionary grants program associated with the Smart Start Kansas framework. Enhance funding to support evaluation of the Smart Start Kansas framework and other programs receiving Children's Initiatives Fund dollars. Support targeted investments that improve school readiness, including those such as Early Head Start, Therapeutic Preschool and the Four-Year-Old-At-Risk Program

➔ **Expand the Parents as Teachers and Healthy Start Home Visitor Programs** so they are available to all parents wanting to participate in them.

➔ **Implement a child care subsidy program** that provides incentives for quality improvement: 1) to increase the educational capacity of teachers to provide quality care and education; and 2) to expand the supply of quality child care and early education in Kansas.

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **Enhance accountability and informed decision-making in the child welfare system** by requiring Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) to provide periodic reports on how private contractors are spending public funds and on the child well-being results they are achieving.

➔ **Stem the tide of children and youth needlessly entering the foster care system** by providing a more complete continuum of prevention and family support services. Provide state funding for voluntary, intensive home visitation programs, such as the Healthy Families Program, for overburdened families at high risk of family dissolution. Transform Child Protective Services (CPS) so it has the capacity to not only *protect* children who need to be removed from the home, but to provide crisis management services to at-risk families and avert the need for out-of-home placement.

EDUCATION

➔ **Maintain the state's funding commitment to Communities in Schools (CIS)**, a program dedicated to keeping children in school so they can transition successfully into adulthood.

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Recognizing the significant role of caring adults in the lives of children and youth**, allow state employees (full-time, with benefits) to use 52 hours per year (average 1 hour per week) for participating in youth mentoring programs – such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and Youth Friends – and in school volunteerism.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Dodie Wellshear Johnson 785-232-0550 dodie@kac.org

LOUISIANA
AGENDA FOR CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

Rough Draft

HEALTH

➔ **Restore and increase Medicaid and public health funding to improve health care access**

➔ **Expand school health clinics and nurse home visitation**

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **Amend the kinship law to allow for informal custody arrangements**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMMILY SUPPORT

➔ **Appropriate the unspent TANF funds**

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

➔ **Implement a pilot for service coordination developed in the Children's Cabinet Advisory Committee.**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Judy Watts at 504-586-8509 or jwatts@agendaforchildren.org

MAINE

MAINE CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

HEALTH

- **Public policy to support school based health centers in any school/community that wants them**
- **Health insurance for all children and as many of the parents as possible**
- **Support for tech schools to train support personnel for health centers**
- **Licensing of health centers to get private insurance reimbursements**
- **Licensing of dental hygienists and nurse practitioners to practice unsupervised to provide screening and a few other support issues**

EDUCATION

- **Increase in state share of school funding**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Elinor Goldberg at 207-623-1868 or egoldberg@mekids.org

MARYLAND
ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Childcare vouchers (called the Purchase of Care program)**
- **Money to expand the Judy Hoyer program (early childhood education programs based in elementary schools), and for training for child care providers and accreditation for child care programs**
- **Expand home visiting programs**
- **All-day kindergarten**

HEALTH

- **Improvements to HealthChoice**
- **Expand health insurance coverage for pregnant women from 250% to 300% of the FPL**
- **Loaner bank for hearing aids**
- **Increase reimbursement rates for providers in the HealthChoice program**
- **Health insurance coverage for working parents**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Substance abuse treatment for parents of children at-risk of maltreatment: increase slots and addiction specialists**
- **Caseload reduction in child welfare services**
- **Fund fully the work of the Child Fatality and Citizen Review teams**
- **Repeal the religious exemption from child welfare statues**
- **Grants to public/private partnerships to create a better infrastructure identifying, diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

- **Education and job skills for low-income working parents**
- **Enhance the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and make it refundable**
- **To help low-income families set up individual development accounts (IDAs)**
- **Maryland refundable earned income tax credit: increase the percentage of refundability**
- **Child support pass-throughs for TANF families (so low-income families can keep child support payments instead of the state)**

EDUCATION

- ➔ **Additional funding for in-school breakfast program**
- ➔ **Additional funding for academic interventions for children at-risk of academic failure across the state**
- ➔ **"Bridge" legislation to continue and expand providing targeted funds for Baltimore City and children at-risk of failure statewide**
- ➔ **Funding for teacher mentoring**
- ➔ **The remedy plan developed by the Baltimore City Public School System** (requiring additional state funding in order to provide an adequate education to Baltimore students)
- ➔ **Accountability reform**
- ➔ **More money for academic services and transportation of special education students**

JUVENILE JUSTICE

- ➔ **Community-based delinquency prevention programs**
- ➔ **Create an independent oversight body to ensure full access to all aspects of Maryland's juvenile justice system**
- ➔ **Set time limits for keeping adjudicated youth in detention and provide increased funds for alternatives to detention**
- ➔ **Give the juvenile court authority to review all cases of youth accused of crimes as adults**
- ➔ **Require Department of Juvenile Justice to implement Juvenile Detention Standards in all of its facilities**
- ➔ **To stop over representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

- ➔ **Increase the After School Opportunity Fund**
- ➔ **Increase funds for cost-effective alternatives to school suspensions and expulsions**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Matthew Joseph at 410-547-9200 ext. 3005 or mjoseph@acy.org

MARYLAND
MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES & YOUTH

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Support the development and implementation of a fair, equitable and predictable system for setting rates** for residential and non-residential child care programs and non-public general education schools that encourages efficiency and ensures that providers have the flexibility to respond to the changing needs of children, families and purchasers.

HEALTH

➔ **Encourage early identification and treatment** of mental health and substance abuse problems among children and adolescents.

➔ **Demand full implementation of House Bill 692 (1999)** enabling mental health and substance abuse screening and assessment for youth in the juvenile justice system.

➔ **Support expanded funding** for home and community-based mental health services for children and youth.

➔ **Support the enactment of HB 922** which created an interagency workgroup to address the needs of "stuck kids" in hospitals and residential treatment centers.

➔ **Support expansion** of the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program.

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **Support full integration of child welfare and substance abuse services** to strengthen families, to promote family preservation and to enable family reunification.

➔ **Advocate for the Cardin-Chafee Foster Care Independence Act** to be included in regulations and monitor how DHR pursues federal funding to expand services to transition age youth in foster care.

➔ **Support full implementation of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)** and in particular, the requirement for citizen review.

➔ **Foster development of programs and services** which are flexible, culturally competent, and available to children and families in their communities.

➔ **Ensure the adoption of a *Foster Parents' Bill of Rights*.**

➔ **Continue to ensure full implementation of The Child Welfare Workforce Act of 1998** and other initiatives to strengthen the child welfare workforce and demand accountability.

➔ **Advocate for educational opportunities for children in state-supervised care** to maximize their preparedness in career technology and their preparation for the world of work.

EDUCATION

➔ **Support administrative action and/or legislation to require Local Education Agencies** to give adequate attention to the enrollment and evaluation of children in state-supervised care, to address their unique educational needs and to provide reasonable protections against suspension and expulsion.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

➔ **Stop the improper use of secure detention.** Work with DJJ to develop and implement high standards for detention facilities.

➔ **Prevent juveniles from being transferred to the adult criminal justice system.**

➔ **Reduce the over-representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system** and keep this issue constantly visible to public and policy makers

➔ **Restore to local jurisdictions the authority and resources needed to intervene in the lives of their children who are at risk**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Create an emphasis on youth development** using community-based programs and services to prevent delinquency and to respond immediately at the onset of delinquency to prevent its reoccurrence.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

➔ **Continue to advocate for a more comprehensive reform of public agency systems** serving children and families with special needs.

➔ **Ensure interagency collaboration** to meet the education, health and mental health needs of children in the juvenile justice system.

➔ **Advocate for increased responsibility and authority at the local level** to meet the needs of their children, families and communities.

➔ **Advocate for effective representation** by consumers, advocates and service providers on Local Management Boards.

➔ **Promote a "results-based" service delivery system.**

➔ **Advocate for and support the effective measurement of results and outcomes** for individual providers and for systems of care and services. Promote and encourage use of MARFY's outcome evaluation system, TEAM (Teach, Evaluate, Analyze, Manage), among public and private sector child and family serving agencies.

➔ **Seek appropriate levels of funding** for child welfare, juvenile justice, children's health and mental health and education programs and services for children, youth and families.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Jim McComb 410-974-4901 ext. 1 or jmccomb@erols.com

MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS CITIZENS FOR CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

For the last 18 months, Massachusetts Citizens for Children has been working with policy makers and advocates to produce a report on child protection reform, family support issues, and child abuse prevention. The report will also consist of recommendations such as establishing "Child Advocacy Centers," universal home visiting programs, and revamping the Guardian ad Litem system. The next step in their process is to create a Committee on Legislation to identify specific pieces of legislation from the findings. Anyone interested in their process or the document can contact Jetta Bernier at 617-742-8555 ext.102 or jetta@masskids.org.

MINNESOTA
CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND - MINNESOTA

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Support the Early Care and Education Finance Commission recommendations** which call for $480 million of new investment over the next 5 years. This includes fully funding our child care sliding fee program, expanding ECFE and HeadStart and Early HeadStart, child tax credit, begin a voluntary paid parental leave initiative as well as programs that attract, retain and offer educational opportunities to childcare professionals. There are a number of quality initiatives in there as well.

HEALTH

➔ **Expand number of children covered by either MinnesotaCare or Medicaid** with goal of universal coverage by 2005. Push for administrative changes such as presumptive eligibility, adjunct eligibility (free and reduced school lunch), 12 month continuous coverage (we have it for MinnesotaCare but not for Medicaid), seamless coverage by streamlining existing programs into one, and continued outreach grants and initiatives until 2005.

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **Reintroduce our paid parental leave proposal.** This is a voluntary employer-based benefit that offers paid parental leave to employees for up to 26 weeks. The state matches the employer's leave stipend up to $250 a week. This passed the Senate last year.

➔ **Establish a $500 state child tax credit** that mirrors the federal but is refundable (not dependent upon amount of taxes paid). This may be targeted to families with children under 6 in order to lower the fiscal note and to help with child care costs or lost income.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Jim Koppel at 651-227-6121 ext. 11 or koppel@cdf-mn.org

MISSOURI
CITIZENS FOR MISSOURI'S CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Raise the income eligibility of families for subsidized child care to at least 150% of the federal poverty level.**

HEALTH

➔ **Allow dental hygienists, who practice in a public health setting, to clean teeth and provide fluoride treatments and sealants to children who are Medicaid/MC+ eligible without the supervision of a dentist.**

➔ **Allow physicians or pediatricians to be reimbursed for administering fluoride treatments to children during office visits.**

➔ **Increase Medicaid/MC+ reimbursements to 75% of the usual and customary costs (UCR) of the dental/health care professional for cleaning teeth and providing fluoride treatments and sealants.**

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **Include Medicaid coverage as an option in Missouri's implementation of the Foster Care Independence Act.**

➔ **Enact recommendations of *Building Bridges to Permanency Project*, including expedited time frames, support for a unified family court model, and creating options of permanent guardianship**

➔ **Increase the number of Division of Family Services line staff and supervisors to meet Council on Accreditation standards.**

➔ **Increase foster care reimbursement rates.**

➔ **Increase residential treatment reimbursement rates.**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **Enact a State Earned Income Tax Credit.**

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND USE

➔ **Secure at least 20% of the Missouri Tobacco Settlement** for quality early care and youth development programs.

➔ **Assure that this money does not supplant state or federal money** that currently supports these program.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Beth Griffin at 314-647-2003 or mbgrif@fastrans.net

NEVADA
THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

CHILD WELFARE

- **Provide for the establishment of nonprofit agencies to shelter and assist homeless minors**
- **Provide for the integration of the state and local child welfare systems**
- **Expand the definition of "child" in NRS 432.010 to allow youths to stay in foster care until age 21 for certain circumstances**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

- **Establish educational programs to reduce teen pregnancies**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Donna Husted 702-450-7450

NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Support quality, accessible early education so that all children enter school ready to learn** by: (a) improving standards and administrative enforcement of standards to protect child safety and improve quality of early childhood education programs; and (b) increasing reimbursement rates and other incentives, including health insurance, for early childhood educators to levels sufficient to recruit and retain qualified staff and setting tiered reimbursement rates to encourage early childhood educators to become licensed or accredited.

➔ **Include and fund universal, free public kindergarten** - as an essential element of an adequate education

➔ **Include and fund parent education and early childhood education programs** - such as Head Start and Early Head Start, as an integral part of a state's overall education plan

➔ **Increase access of all families to quality child care** by: (a) Providing funding for Head Start and Early Head Start programs to ensure universal service to all income eligible children; (b) Creating incentives for private sector employers to subsidize the cost of child care for low income parents; (c) Assure that reimbursement rates for child care providers caring for low income children are based on the cost of providing quality care for children; and (d) Assure that fees paid by the state to subsidize the cost of care are paid in a timely manner that does not jeopardize the quality of care children receive.

➔ **Implement a sliding fee scale for child care subsidies** that increases eligibility criteria on a scale similar to that of New Hampshire Healthy Kids and which eases parents off subsidy payments on a graduated scale

HEALTH

➔ **Improve access to health care** for New Hampshire children by maximizing enrollment in and coverage by Healthy Kids programs, specific steps include: (a) screening insurance status of all children at the start of each school year (including pre-school age children enrolled in licensed day care centers); (b) providing parents/guardians of identified uninsured children with information on low or no cost health insurance; and (c) promoting legislation to increase Medicaid reimbursement to pediatricians, family practitioners and dentists to ensure access to comprehensive primary care for Medicaid recipients.

➔ **Foster the physical and oral health** of all children, including low-income children by: (a) assisting school systems in developing school-based preventive and primary health and dental care services; (b) identifying funding sources (e.g., grants, Medicaid); and (c) providing technical assistance to secure funding and to implement services.

➔ **Assess access to and funding of comprehensive health care for incarcerated youth**

➔ **Assess barriers to health disparities and accessing health care** for children and pregnant women in New Hampshire who are among ethnic, racial and/or socioeconomic minorities

➔ **Assure the long-term funding of Healthy Kids Silver** by providing an adequate state match for Title XXI funding of all eligible children

➔ **Develop statewide plan for Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug (ATOD) prevention, intervention and treatment services** and provide technical assistance and training to implement such services at the community level

➔ **Increase education and support services** for families in their role as primary care givers for children with mental, emotional, behavioral and developmental disabilities

➔ **Increase the level of funding**, through allocation of alcohol and tobacco tax and settlement monies, and other revenues, for ATOD prevention, intervention and treatment services so the state per capita funding rises to the level of the national average within the next three years

➔ **Increase access to comprehensive, ATOD, mental emotional, behavioral, and developmental health services** by: (a) supporting, comprehensive parity legislation; and (b) increasing Medicaid coverage of related services.

➔ **Increase support from parents, community leaders, and business for school and community based prevention programs**, such as student assistance programs, volunteering, mentoring, and programs to increase understanding of mental illness and addiction and stigma.

➔ **Foster healthy lives, pregnancies, relationships, and emotional health and reduce unprepared teen parenting**, by promoting comprehensive health and sexuality education and parenting information as an integral part of K-12 school curricula

➔ **Educate parents, pediatric providers and child care providers about healthy pregnancies and about the health, development and safety of young children** by supporting broad-based, statewide dissemination of and training an *Healthy Mom/Healthy Baby* and *Growing Up Healthy*

➔ **Educate the public regarding the benefits of community water fluoridation**

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **Adopt and meet national accreditation standards** to ensure appropriate Division of Children, Youth and Families caseload levels, caseworker training, supervision, training and other indicators of quality

➔ **Authorize the establishment of a Teen Transitional Living Program** to provide homeless teens with a structured, safe program that will help them successfully make the transition to adulthood

➔ **Foster a successful transition to adulthood for youth with developmental disabilities and/or mental health illness** by increasing coordination between governmental agencies, schools, and providers

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **Educate eligible families about the federal earned income tax credit** which rewards work and helps lift families out of poverty

➔ **Support efforts to raise the minimum wage** in New Hampshire so that full time work brings family income above the poverty level

➔ **Appropriate state funds to obtain federal matching funds for the creation of affordable and adequate housing**

➔ **Draw down and invest federal TANF surplus funds** to support and develop programs of critical interest for low-income families, including child care, after school care, housing, job training, post-secondary education and transportation

➔ **Support expansion of unemployment insurance coverage to part-time workers**

➔ **Support funding of a paid family and medical leave program from reliable and equitable sources**

➔ **Support efforts to remove barriers and expand access to post-secondary education** for lower income residents, including TANF recipients and the working poor

➔ **Appropriate money (including TANF surplus funds) for the Homeless Prevention Fund** to help families retain their housing when faced with a financial emergency

EDUCATION

➔ **Promote meaningful school reform** by: adopting a research based understanding of child development; (b) adopting valid multiple measures of school and student performance to develop long term school improvement plans; and (c) promoting development of high quality educators.

➔ **Seek funding to support a comprehensive assessment**, by an independent qualified examiner, of the condition of all public school buildings in New Hampshire

➔ **Foster links throughout the preschool through grade 12 education systems and with the post-secondary education system** so that all children, including children with special needs and impoverished children, enter and leave school prepared to achieve their full potential

➔ **Support the constitutional right of all students to an adequate education** by: (a) assessing the cost of an adequate education at a level which ensures high quality; (b) fully funding the costs as required by law; and (c) supporting a long-term, sufficient and reliable revenue plan.

➔ **Promote funding and implementation** of: (a) best practice models that provide appropriate education and support services to students subject to out-of-school suspensions or expulsions; (b) best practice drop-out prevention programs; and (c) best practice school and community-based prevention programs for children and families

➔ **Recognize and applaud efforts to define adequacy at a level which ensures a high quality education**

➔ **Improve educational outcomes by developing and disseminating policies and best practices designed to encourage parents, students and citizens to become active partners in the education of all children**

➔ **Identify and disseminate best practice school frameworks that effectively integrate family friendly, school-based services and expanded school hours to promote the optimal growth and development of children beginning at birth**

JUVENILE JUSTICE

➔ **Reconsider the requirement that parents reimburse counties for services provided in child protection, CHINS and delinquency cases**

➔ **Raise the age of prosecution for adult offenses back to 18 years**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Provide teens with a full range of community-based sexuality education and family planning services**, including pregnancy, STD, AIDS, abstinence and contraceptive information, to encourage responsible decision-making

➔ **Work with service providers to have in place quality parent education and support**

services or to create linkages to existing parent education and support services

➔ **Enact legislation to support, expand and fund early intervention and prevention programs**, such as parent education, home visiting, and support programs

➔ **Develop teen programming focused on asset building strategies** such as mentoring and community service learning to reduce risk of teen pregnancies and other adverse outcomes

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

➔ **Work together to create a continuum of voluntary services** that respects family rights, cultural differences and provides homeless teens, on a strictly volunteer basis, emergency shelter, case management and longer-term housing and support. Housing options should range from emergency shelter to group living to shares and independent apartments

➔ **Invest in the use of community buildings, including school buildings, for all types of positive child and youth activities**

➔ **Develop clear protocols to improve interagency coordination at both the state and local level for families involved in multiple systems of care**. Such protocols should increase screening for and early intervention to address early phases of mental illness, addiction, and school dysfunction

➔ **Work with regional planning committees and other local leaders to develop community plans** that include voluntary supports for families, beginning with community needs assessments and results in concrete action plans

CONTACT INFORMATION: Ellen Shemitz at 603-225-2264 or eshemitz@childrennh.org

NEW JERSEY
ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

Rough Draft

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Continue to enhance our state pre-school education effort and augment it with a comprehensive early intervention initiative**

HEALTH

➔ **Child proof handguns - A bill has passed the Senate and ACNJ is working with Ceasefire New Jersey to secure passage in the Assembly**

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **Establish a KinshipCare support program - ACNJ recommends that the state develop a limited financial support program for those kin providers who agree to assume a new legal guardianship role for the child and who have financial need**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **Recommend that our state launch a new effort to intervene early with special health, education and parent support programs**

➔ **Expand the State Earned Income Tax Credit - recommends that the New Jersey EITC be expanded so that all workers who are eligible for the federal EITC also be eligible for the state EITC**

➔ **Individual development accounts - A bill passed the Assembly and ACNJ is working with several groups to support its passage**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Work with regional planning committees and other local leaders to develop community plans that include voluntary supports for families, beginning with community needs assessments and result in concrete action plans**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Ciro Scalera at 973-643-3876 ext. 106 or ciro@acnj.org

NEW MEXICO
NEW MEXICO ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

→ **Increase capacity of the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) Office of Child Development** - legislative action to request $500,000 for the Office of Child Development for comprehensive community based early care and education programs

→ **Expand the number of sites for full school day kindergarten** - legislative action to implement full school-day kindergarten and pursue early childhood licensure and on-going training for all full day kindergarten professionals

→ **Improve child care reimbursement** - legislative action to increase infant/toddler care reimbursement rates to improve the quality of care and increase the number of available providers

→ **Compensation Memorial to require interagency collaboration and reporting** to LFC and LESC - legislative memorial to investigate 1) TEACH and *TM or TEACH like initiatives, 2) implementation of a compensation pilot project

HEALTH

→ **Support coverage of immigrant children without the use of federal dollars**

→ **Reform the Managed Care Act for behavioral health** - attempt to slow the Medicaid RFP process to allow legislative input

→ **Universal health care** - Healthy Security for New Mexicans Campaign (New MexiCare)

→ **Access to health and social services for undocumented persons** - legislative state policy change

→ **Legislation for safety locks and responsible gun ownership** - state legislative action for Children and Firearm Safety Bill

→ **Legislation to close the gun show loophole** - legislative action to provide for criminal background checks an all private gun sales

→ **Defeat legislation to allow the carrying of concealed weapons** - coordinated effort with Million Mom March

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

→ **Review and recommend usury legislation and/or legislation to limit interest charged on short term loans, particularly tax refund loans**

→ **Legislation to limit the interest on paycheck and title loans**

→ **TANF reform to provide state financed safety net, including cash assistance, for those who are no longer eligible for TANF beginning in 2002**

→ **State livable wage law that applies to state employees**

EDUCATION

➔ **Defeat legislation which allows voucher programs**
➔ **Teaching Reading** - advocate for improved teacher preparation programs so all students can read and write
➔ **Performance Counts** - advocate for stringent implementation and accountability for Performance Counts

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND USE

➔ **Appropriate use of tobacco settlement funds** - advocate for legislative action to assure appropriate use of funds

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Increase referral capacity** - legislative action to request $600,000 for referral and family information functions to statewide technical assistance programs

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

➔ **Capital outlay** - advocate for capital outlay requests for targeted neighborhood associations

CONTACT INFORMATION: Bill Jordan at 505-244-9505 or bjordan@aol.com

NEW YORK STATE
STATEWIDE YOUTH ADVOCACY, INC.

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Raise child care subsidy eligibility to 275%**
- **Build additional capacity**
- **Ensure quality** through wage and educational subsidies
- **Universal Pre-K implementation** and funding security toward true universality

HEALTH

- **Input into the design of New York State's program for the new opportunities offered by the Chafee Independent Living Program** - including taking the option for extended Medicaid coverage for these kids
- **Reauthorization of children's health legislation** - our Campaign for Healthy Children Agenda (for the full detailed agenda please contact State Youth Advocacy, Inc.)

1. Increasing access to health care by creating a seamless Children's Health Care System
2. Simplifying the enrollment, transfer, and renewal process
3. Assuring child appropriate health coverage
4. Covering vulnerable populations
5. Mental health coverage
6. Children with special health care needs
7. Linguistically appropriate health care
8. Transportation services
9. Newborn screening/genetic profiling

CHILD WELFARE

- **New financing system for child welfare services**
- **Improving quality and outcome measures** in the state child welfare system

EDUCATION

- **Class size reduction**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Elie Ward at 518-436-8525 ext. 23 or esw@syanys.org

NEW YORK STATE
CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

Rough Draft

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Universal Pre-K**
- **Access to quality, affordable child care**
- **Facility expansion**

HEALTH

- **Lift the mental health Medicaid spending cap**
- **Settle RTF mental health lawsuit with provisions**
- **Update mental health fiscal models and staffing structures**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Support and fully fund the Office of Children and Family Services' child welfare financing plan**
- **Recommend that New York State opt into a federal provision extending Medicaid coverage until age 21 for youth who leave foster care**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

- **Support New York City's development of local Earned Income Tax Credit and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit for eligible working families**
- **Develop and rehabilitate affordable housing units and promote home ownership through funding of existing programs and new initiatives**
- **Call upon federal government to increase Section 8 housing subsidies and capital funding**

EDUCATION

- **Early grade class size reduction**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Candice Anderson at 212-673-1800 ext. 17, Tara Sher at ext. 16, Maria Toro at ext. 20, and Gabrielle Kreisler at ext. 12

NORTH CAROLINA
NORTH CAROLINA CHILD ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- ➔ **Appropriate $3.2 million for the support and expansion of the Intensive Home Visitation Initiative**
- ➔ **Fully fund Smart Start**
- ➔ **Expand the T. E. A. C. H. Early Childhood Project**
- ➔ **Increase child care subsidies**

EDUCATION

- ➔ **Statewide promotion standards should be fair and educationally sound, based on a meaningful assessment**
- ➔ **Create a funding formula that provides additional funding for students who are on free or reduced lunch and are performing below grade level**
- ➔ **Provide adequate funding for schools to educate Limited English Proficient (LEP) students**
- ➔ **Provide adequate funding for children with disabilities**
- ➔ **Improve alternative education by having the money follow the child**
- ➔ **Ensure that students who are suspended and expelled are given the educational assistance needed to succeed**

HEALTH

- ➔ **Expand eligibility for NC Health Choice (SCHIP) to cover children below 350% of the FPL**
- ➔ **Cover all eligible children regardless of immigrant status**
- ➔ **Support the development and funding of a coordinated school health program**
- ➔ **Ensure access to high quality and effective mental health and substance abuse services for child in need**
- ➔ **Health insurance companies and public health programs should be required to offer mental health and substance abuse treatment equal in quality to treatment provided for physical illnesses**
- ➔ **Support a uniform right to an independent appeal of any decision to deny treatment through an administrative process and the court system**
- ➔ **Enact stronger protective legislation for child safety that includes automobile restraints and safety helmets**
- ➔ **Clarify and strengthen laws that prevent children from gaining unsupervised, unsafe access to guns**

CHILD WELFARE

- → **Increase post-adoption services for families who adopt foster children**
- → **Expand the special needs adoption incentive fund**
- → **Extend adoption services past age 18**
- → **Support post-adoption contract agreements that encourage ongoing contact between adopted children and their birth parents after finalization of the adoption (when mutually agreed upon)**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

- → **Ensure that working families have access to jobs paying a living wage and that have benefits**
- → **Provide income supports to fill the gaps left by low wages**
- → **Implement a state Earned Income Tax Credit**
- → **Increase the state minimum wage**
- → **Evaluate public assistance using measurements of family success not caseload decline**

JUVENILE JUSTICE

- → **The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention should work to improve the conditions in youth academices (training schools) and the treatment programs within them to reduce recidivism**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Paula Wolf 919-834-6623 ext. 227 wolf@covenant.g12.com

OHIO

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND - OHIO

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Initiate a rated child care license to improve quality**
- **Support Ohio's mandate for AA degreed Head Start teachers through additional state funding**
- **Expand Head Start income eligibility to support Head Start/child care partnerships**

HEALTH

- **Medicaid/CHIP outreach, enrollment, and re-enrollment**
- **Medicaid/CHIP 12-month eligibility, adjunctive eligibility**
- **Medicaid expansion for parents**

EDUCATION

- **Implementation of Governor's Commission for Student Success recommendations**
- **Linking early literacy strategies for pre-k through 4**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Mark Real at 701-777-4086 ext. 122 or mreal@cdfohio.org, Chris Stoneburner at ext. 120 or cstoneburner@cdfohio.org, Mary Wachtel at ext. 128 or mwachtel@cdfohio.org, Erin Joyce at ext. 129 or ejoyce@cdfohio.org, and Jenny Kattlove at ext. 131 or jkattlove@cdfohio.org

OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA INSTITUTE FOR CHILD ADVOCACY

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Support the development of a comprehensive, community-based early childhood care and education system**, to include (1) strong public policy, (2) a statewide public/private partnership, (3) a public engagement campaign, and (4) community efforts

➔ **Expand and fund existing early childhood programs**, including but not limited to; (1) Parents as Teachers, (2) child health care, (3) family support, and (4) required screening and assessments to include child development issues, i.e. vision, auditory, etc.

HEALTH

➔ **Raise Medicaid eligibility to 200% FPL,**

➔ **Provide for family coverage**

➔ **Allow a buy-in for families between 200% and 250% FPL, with a provision allowing small businesses to participate in the buy-in with compensatory tax credits**

➔ **Provide for 12-month continuous guaranteed coverage for Medicaid recipients**

➔ **Increase the Medicaid-provider reimbursement rate to 100% of the current or annual Medicare provider reimbursement rate.** Ensure that rate increases are passed through by HMOs to providers, and that HMOs and providers are held accountable for service delivery under their contracts.

➔ **Establish a 5-year demonstration project to provide health services on school sites at the middle and high school levels, that target high-risk behaviors, in accordance with nationally recognized standards.** Select 12 districts representing urban, rural and suburban communities, and provide incentives for private sector involvement.

➔ **Repeal the state pre-emptive law that prohibits local communities from enacting tobacco-related ordinances that are more restrictive than state laws.**

➔ **Fund the development and continuation of the interagency "System of Care" model for the delivery of mental health services to children and youth in Oklahoma communities.** This includes those with dual diagnoses (either mental illness and substance abuse, or mental illness and mental retardation), developmental disabilities, substance abuse issues, or serious emotional disturbance. Provide for collaboration of state agencies, and the maximizing of federal and state dollars.

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **Expand violence prevention efforts through earlier and sustained awareness, education and counseling**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **Support a refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and promote public education on eligibility for the federal EITC program.**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Anne Roberts at 405-236-KIDS or aroberts@oica.org

PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Develop a school readiness initiative** - Every $1 invested in preschool returns $7 in social savings through reduced special education costs, dropout rates, unemployment, and welfare dependency. And yet, Pennsylvania is one of only 11 states that doesn't supplement federal Head Start dollars with its own funds. Pennsylvania must give all children an equal start with a high-quality, state-funded school readiness initiative for children at risk of school failure. The goal is that by 2005 every child is ready to learn when they enter kindergarten. The components should include parental education and support, a quality preschool education program, and connections to healthcare and social services.

➔ **Encourage full-day kindergarten for at-risk children** - At-risk children who enjoy full-day kindergarten show fewer grade retentions, better report cards, higher standardized test scores, and positive social development. But only 25 percent of Pennsylvania's 5-year-olds are in full-day kindergarten, compared to 50 percent nationwide. Pennsylvania must offer incentive grants that encourage school districts to develop full-day kindergarten.

➔ **Create a Nurse Home Visiting Program** - Research shows that if first time mothers from low income families voluntarily participate in nurse home visiting programs it will result in lower incidences of child abuse, better birth outcomes, healthier babies, better maternal health, and higher incidences of child immunizations. Pennsylvania should support the establishment of a statewide nurse home visiting program.

HEALTH

➔ **Enroll all eligible children in CHIP or Medical Assistance** - One in eleven Pennsylvania children lacks basic health insurance. Pennsylvania must invest in children's health by ensuring that all eligible children are enrolled in CHIP or Medical Assistance. Pennsylvania should continue to support outreach by expanding its mini-grant program to encourage and assist enrollment in CHIP and Medical Assistance.

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Create a Youth Development Fund for after-school and summer programs** - Children are most likely to commit crimes or be victimized during the after-school hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. By contrast, children in supervised after-school programs are more cooperative with adults, perform better in school, and handle conflict better. State support for after-school programs that include academic enrichment and cultural and recreational activities would help children stay safe and grow strong.

➔ **Establish an Office of Prevention** - Pennsylvania should establish an Office of Prevention through a Governor's Executive Order or enabling legislation. The focus of this office should be to coordinate, and if needed consolidate, the myriad of community level programs, funding streams and policies that are currently focused on family support services and preventing juvenile crime and child

abuse.

➔ **Expand the family center initiative** - Local family centers give parents comprehensive help with their children's education, mental health, early intervention, health care and juvenile justice needs. Pennsylvania must increase its investment in family center funding, empowering parents and providers to meet children's interwoven needs.

CONTACT INFORMATION: James Martin at 717-236-5680 or jmartin@papartnerships.org

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA CITIZENS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

State Initiatives

→ Support accreditation bills which provide increased reimbursement for improved child care
→ Support efforts to increase the salaries and benefits for child care workers
→ Support legislation to improve the education of child care workers
→ Support legislation to improve the affordability of child care by increasing the eligibility for subsidy
→ Support legislation to eliminate programmatic barriers that prevent families from participating in child care
→ Support universal Pre-K programs
→ Support home visiting and family support efforts to strengthen and support parenting and families in communities throughout the state

City Initiatives

→ Support efforts to increase the health and safety fund
→ Support the creation of facilities funding stream
→ Support efforts to expand family care slots
→ Create a unified child care license
→ Eliminate barriers that prevent families from accessing child care and providers from improving quality of their services
→ Support universal home visiting programs
→ Support efforts to develop a local quality enhancement fund
→ Support increased efforts to expand home visiting particularly for newborns and their families
→ Support increased family and parenting programs in every neighborhood in the City

HEALTH

State Initiatives

→ Continue efforts to monitor and maximize the number of children covered by health insurance
→ Support legislation that increases the resources and efficacy of lead poison

prevention programs and efforts

- ➔ Increase the support for early intervention and mental health programs
- ➔ Support new strategies to improve dental health care

City Initiatives

- ➔ Support efforts to increase funding streams and strategies to protect children from lead poisoning and violence, particularly guns
- ➔ Support programs that provide mental health and dental capacity for children
- ➔ Monitor and report on the utilization of health clinics

CHILD WELFARE

State Initiatives

- ➔ Support changes in both state laws and regulations that protect children, support kinship care

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

State Initiatives

- ➔ Monitor the impact on children and families of TANF and ASFA
- ➔ Eliminate the permanent bar to support for persons who committed drug crimes

EDUCATION

State Initiatives

- ➔ Support increased state funding for education
- ➔ Support changed formulas based on equity
- ➔ Support small class size and school building legislation
- ➔ Support efforts to explore different special education funding and support changes in charter school funding

City Initiatives

- ➔ Support small class size expansion
- ➔ Support implementation of a variety of efforts including site based strategies to secure more qualified teachers
- ➔ Support efforts to improve and expand summer school programs and other opportunities to learn initiatives
- ➔ Support increased funding for transportation to and from school for students
- ➔ Watchdog and support efforts to improve the safety in schools, including removing lead from water and assuring as much safety as possible for students and teachers

➔ **Support the development of a new small youth study center**

JUVENILE JUSTICE

State Initiatives

➔ **Support efforts to open up the courts more and reduce the adult certification of juveniles**

City Initiatives

➔ **Support efforts to increase the number, training, and capabilities of the judges and staff in Family Court**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

State Initiatives

➔ **Support statewide youth development funding at the legislative and administrative level of at least $15 million**

City Initiatives

➔ **Support the creation of Children's Funds in the city to support children and family programs especially after-school and summer programs, child care, and those cultural and recreational programs that have been cut from the school's offerings**
➔ **Support increased family and parenting programs in every neighborhood in the city**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Shelly Yanoff at 215-563-5848 ext. 20 shellypccy@aol.com

RHODE ISLAND
RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Increase funding for early care and education through the state's Starting Right Program**

HEALTH

➔ **Increase coverage and funding for Children's Health Insurance through the state's Rite Care program**
➔ **Increase funding to increase access to dental care for low-income children**
➔ **Increase in funding for programs to prevent childhood lead poisoning**
➔ **Increase in funding for Children's Mental Health programs and improved coordination of the administration of Children's Mental Health Services**
➔ **Work with legislative leaders to develop new gun safety legislation**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Increase prevention oriented funding to the Department of Children, Youth and Families**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Elizabeth Burke Bryant at 401-351-9400 ext. 12 or ebb@rikids.org

SOUTH CAROLINA
ALLIANCE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Modify child care law to include monitoring family care providers and change wording of day care to child care**

HEALTH

➔ **Expand children's health care coverage - Raise CHIP eligibility to 200% of poverty level**
➔ **Reduce risk of injury and death - Primary enforcement of the seatbelt law for children**
➔ **Obtain permanent funding for Healthy Families SC - to promote positive parenting, school literacy, and optimal child development**

EDUCATION

➔ **Reduce truancy and increase graduation - Sustain and replicate truancy diversion programs**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Ian Hamilton at 803-256-4670 ext. 226 or icham@bellsouth.net

SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA COALITION FOR CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Require family day care homes caring for seven or more children to be registered**
➔ Support Governor Janklow's proposal for $1 million in one-time funding to start out-of-school time care programs

HEALTH

➔ **Require children ages 5 to 17 to buckle up when traveling in a motor vehicle and make enforcement a petty offense**

JUVENILE JUSTICE

➔ **Pursue accreditation with the American Corrections Association for South Dakota's juvenile corrections facilities and programs**

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND USE

➔ **Dedicate one-third of the annual tobacco settlement payments to the Tobacco Prevention and Reduction Trust Fund to provide a long term source of funding for a comprehensive, sustained tobacco prevention program**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Susan Randall 605-367-9667

TEXAS
CHILDREN AT RISK

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

HEALTH

➔ **All local and state barriers to enrollment and participation in health insurance coverage for low-income children be identified and removed**

➔ **Medicaid simplification** - simplification of the application process for children's Medicaid by; (a) allowing mail-in applications and the adoption of streamlined documentation requirements; (b) eliminating the assets test; and (c) adopting 12-month continuous eligibility

➔ **State outreach programs for Medicaid and CHIP should be expanded with increased funding** - funding increased to $7 million for CHIP outreach and marketing which will enable community organizations to better meet the need for outreach and application assistance for CHIP and Medicaid

➔ **Urge the legislature to support the full implementation of the Texas Health Steps program** - so that every child who is eligible can be screened and receive needed medical services

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **State and local barriers to enrollment and participation in the food stamp program be identified and removed** - examples of barriers; (a) recertification every 3 months; (b) value of vehicle; (c) home visits; (d) employee contact, etc.

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➔ **Support the budget appropriation request of Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to expand prevention and earlier intervention programs** for at-risk children and youth to include after-school initiatives, Healthy Families, STAR (Services to At-Risk Youth), Community in Schools, Parents as Teachers, etc.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Barbara McCormick 713-869-7740 or barbara@hern.org

TEXAS
PREVENT CHILD ABUSE TEXAS

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➜ **Provide incentive funding to public/private multi-sector community partnerships** throughout the state to ensure success in school and life by addressing the needs of young children, pre-natal to five, and their families

➜ **Focus on outcomes of quality early care and education,** preventive health care and stable living arrangements

HEALTH

➜ **Increase funding for mental health beds within children's hospitals.**

➜ **Increase funding for Healthy Families** - to allow continued funding for current programs and expansion of new programs.

CHILD WELFARE

➜ **Increase funding for child abuse prevention programs,** including intensive community-based services and training to law enforcement officers

➜ **Increase funding to the Department of Protective & Regulatory Services** to provide financial incentives and provide support to front-line child welfare specialists in order to decrease turn-over rates, including flexible work schedules and professional development.

➜ **Support communities in their efforts to coordinate the investigation of child abuse & services for victims** - Expand language in the Code of Criminal Procedure to include additional offenses. This allows judges to require a one time payment to a Children Advocacy Center to interview and provide services to a child crime victim.

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

➜ **Reduce teen pregnancy** - Increase funding to focus on the reduction of teen pregnancy: Expand programs to schools and communities not currently served. Establish model/demonstration projects targeting specific populations or areas. Address older teen mothers who are out of school (ages 18-19).

➜ **Target and prioritize increased funding for effective (research-based) prevention and early intervention programs and services for youth,** i.e. mentoring, out-of-school programs, gang intervention and prevention, family mediation, alternative education, substance abuse prevention and treatment, peer education, etc.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND/TOBACCO $

➔ **Expand interest bearing account from tobacco settlement for the purpose of ensuring the health, safety, and well being of Texas children, youth and families**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Wendell Teltow at 512-250-8438 or wteltow@preventchildabusetexas.org

TEXAS
TARRANT COUNTY YOUTH COLLABORATION

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Create an Office of Early Childhood Coordination**

HEALTH

- **Simplification of children's Medicaid eligibility policy**
- **Bring equity in mental health funding for Tarrant County**
- **Increase access to dental care for children**
- **Create a beer keg registration requirement**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Increase Child Protection Services (CPS) caseworker salaries to be competitive with other comparable professionals**
- **Reduce CPS caseworker caseloads from 25 to 15 active investigations**
- **Enactment of a Texas Standby Guardianship Bill**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Linda Ragsdale 817-882-8005, Kristi Lewis 817-871-4816, Ginny Hickman 817-870-7404, or Brad Ward 817-988-2390

TEXAS
TEXANS CARE FOR CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocactes

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Increase local child care capacity and child care subsidies for all low-wage workers**
- **Increase tax incentives for employer-sponsored or subsidized child care programs to increase the availability of quality, affordable childcare**
- **Increase training requirements for registered family homes and licensed child care centers**
- **Support full day kindergarten**
- **Support universal pre-K services**
- **Support the creation of an Office of Early Childhood Coordination at the Health and Human Services Commission**
- **Increase funding for Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Promote a tenured workforce, current caseloads, worker safety and retention, and leadership development**
- **Improve the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) by continued and increased funding of critical components of the system**
- **Increase funding for Children's Advocacy Centers through the Attorney General's Crime Victim Compensation Fund**
- **Increase funding for children and families to receive quality services**
- **Increase CPS funding for automation/technology, intake and investigation, caseload reduction, statewide assessment project, and adequate staff**

HEALTH

- **Simplify Medicaid eligibility**
- **Increase funding for "TexCare Partnership" marketing and outreach**
- **Increase access to dental and primary care services by increasing the reimbursement rate**
- **Increase funding for child mental health services**
- **Expand Medicaid to foster care youth ages 18-21**
- **Enact graduated driver's licensing**
- **Increase funding to the Immunization Fund**
- **Continued support and funding for school-based health clinics**
- **Strengthen child car safety requirements**
- **Include safety equipment such as car seats and bicycle helmets in the back-to-school**

tax holiday

- ➔ Support a school diet/obesity/diabetes control initiative

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

- ➔ Endorse the Center for Public Policy Priorities initiative to improve the support system for low-income families
- ➔ Increase funding to reduce waiting lists for community services for children with disabilities
- ➔ Increase Food Stamp outreach
- ➔ Increase funding for food banks' distribution system and a statewide gleaning program
- ➔ Increase funding for homeless programs

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

- ➔ Expand capacity in prevention and treatment programs to reduce future demands on CPS
- ➔ Expand services for at-risk youth such as the STAR program
- ➔ Increase funding for mentoring programs
- ➔ Increase funding for the United Way 211 initiative, a statewide information and referral system of public and non-profit services
- ➔ Drop-out prevention initiatives such as decreasing student-teacher ratios, and mandatory drop-out reporting
- ➔ Increased funding for early childhood intervention services

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND USE

- ➔ Dedicate tobacco settlement funds to programs for children's physical and mental health
- ➔ Dedicate funds to the development of a statewide tobacco prevention and control program targeting youth

CONTACT INFORMATION: Susan Craven 512-419-7391 scraven@texas.net

UTAH
UTAH CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

HEALTH

- **Passenger restrictions for youth**
- **Graduated driver's licenses**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Post adoption services**
- **Shelter care options in child protective investigations**
- **Notice and reasonable efforts requirements for children in Division custody for reasons other than abuse or neglect**
- **Create a Foster and Adopted Children Task Force to investigate and prepare recommendations on mental health services**
- **Reimbursement for assessment completed by the Division**
- **Child welfare alternative dispute resolution**
- **Tuition waivers for children in long-term foster care**
- **Safe relinquishment of infants**
- **Task force on family conflict resolution**
- **Foster parent Child Protective Services investigation amendments**
- **Juvenile court jurisdiction for administrative hearing appeals**
- **Clarification of time limits for reunification services**

EDUCATION

- **Truancy bill**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- **Reauthorization of FACT (Families, Agencies, and Communities Together)**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Roz McGee at 801-364-1182 or roz@utahchildren.org

VERMONT
THE VERMONT CHILDREN'S FORUM

A member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Support Governor's recommendation for subsidy rate increase**
- **Support Governor's recommended use of increased federal block grant for infant-toddler care challenge grants to increase infant-toddler slots**
- **Support funding for yearly accreditation, credential, or degree bonuses for quality child care providers and programs**
- **Support funding for accommodation in child care for children with special needs**

HEALTH

- **Increase gun safety through supporting the passage of the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Medical Society's Child Access Prevention bill**
- **Will support increasing reimbursement to dentists who serve Medicaid patients**
- **Support protecting a youth's right to abortion without parental notification**
- **Support funding for adolescent substance abuse assessment and treatment programs**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Will work towards continued appropriations for youth who age out of the foster care system**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

- **Support paid parental leave legislation**
- **Will monitor implementation of the welfare reform law to make sure that the state moves toward an independent evaluation of the laws effects**

EDUCATION

- **Will oppose the continuing move toward charter schools**
- **Will monitor attempts to appeal ACT 60 (equal opportunity education financing bill)**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

- **Will introduce legislation to form a Youth Commission to promote public policy that supports positive youth development**

➔ **Support continued funding for the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth programs**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Carlen Finn 802-229-6377

VIRGINIA
THE ACTION ALLIANCE FOR VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

Rough Draft

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Accessing all available federal funding for child care subsidy programs.**
- **Expanding eligibility criteria for child care subsidies and preschool funding.**
- **Efforts to improve education, reduce turnover, and provide a worthy wage for child care workers.**
- **Development of a statewide system of child care resource and referral.**
- **Efforts to increase the health and safety of children in child care settings.**
- **Development of a statewide public/private partnership to address the need for comprehensive planning in early care and education.**

HEALTH

- **Increasing the number of hours of child psychiatry available to all Community Services Boards in the Commonwealth.**
- **Efforts to prevent youth suicide through education, awareness, training and intervention services.**
- **Increasing the availability and accessibility of community-based mental health services for children and adolescents in the Commonwealth.**
- **Limiting children's access to firearms**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Ensuring that institutions, including the foster care system, do not use corporal punishment against children**

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

- **Prevention efforts with documented effectiveness that provide parent training and support services for families**
- **Efforts to provide quality programs and activities for school-aged children in non-school hours**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Margaret Nimmo at 804-649-0184 or margaret@vakids.org

WASHINGTON
CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **We will support state legislation to continue Medicaid coverage for foster care youth until their 21st birthday**

HEALTH

➔ **We will promote legislation to use federal CHIP funding to create new slots in the Basic Health Plan (BHP) for parents and expand subsidized BHP eligibility to 250% of the federal poverty level**

➔ **We will seek $3 million in state funding to maintain current health care access and education services** that ensure that families know about coverage that is available to them

➔ **We will seek $2.9 million in state funds to prevent further loss of vital services - such as nutritional education and health care referrals to high-risk newborns and their mothers.** These funds will go directly to individual WIC clients to prevent closure and to consolidate sites around the state

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

➔ **We will seek funding for four community-based demonstration projects that will provide care management to families in crisis and their adolescent children** - voluntary services that will help them identify what their family needs and how those services might be obtained

CONTACT INFORMATION: Paul Berry at 206-324-0340 ext. 15 or paul@childrensalliance.org

WEST VIRGINIA
WEST VIRGINIA KIDS COUNT FUND

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Revision of child care licensing standards to lower staff to child ratios and upgrade the qualifications of staff**
- **Expand family support centers**
- **Implement Educare projects in five areas**

HEALTH

- **Expand health care coverage for low-income adults by applying state options under existing federal programs**
- **Adopt policies to assure enrollment of those currently eligible for CHIP and Medicaid**
- **Coordinate publicly-funded health coverage for children (Medicaid and CHIP)**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

- **Raise the state's income tax threshold to 100% of the poverty level**
- **Outreach to make families aware of EITC**
- **Developing and implementing a program of education for TANF recipients**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Margie Hale at 304-345-2101 or hn3174@handsnet.org

WISCONSIN
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

➔ **Provide state funding for a subsidy of child care wages to child care teachers** in centers or family care that is accredited or working towards accreditation
➔ **Increase the eligibility for child care subsidies** to families with income at or below 225% FLP
➔ **Lower the maximum co-payment to 10% and provide that families below the poverty level pay the minimum co-payment amount**
➔ **Eliminate Birth to 3 and Family Support waiting lists**

HEALTH

➔ **Increase Badger Care (CHIP) eligibility** to 200% of the FPL for families and 250% for children and redefine availability of insurance
➔ **Eliminate the Medical Assistance Assets test**
➔ **Support state funded screening of newborns**
➔ **Expand access to dental care**
➔ **Support comprehensive mental health/ substance abuse parity legislation**
➔ **Oppose legislation that provides the gun industry with protection from litigation**

CHILD WELFARE

➔ **Eliminate waiting lists for kinship care program**
➔ **Expand Medical Assistance coverage to 18-21 year old youth who age out of foster care**
➔ **Adopt the Family Violence Option as provided by federal law to address safety barriers for victims of domestic abuse**
➔ **Oppose state assumption of county child welfare programs**

ECONOMIC SECURITY/FAMILY SUPPORT

➔ **Eliminate 2-year time limit for the W-2 Transitions category.** Do not require all extension decisions to be approved by DWD
➔ **Establish a pre-sanction review process**
➔ **Allow one half of participants required work activity to consist of appropriate education and training**
➔ **Allow part-time workers in unsubsidized employment to be eligible for a partial**

Community Service Job or W-2T benefit while participating in approved training

➔ **Do not require a job search if a person is making reasonable progress in an approved training program**

➔ **Provide TANF grants to Second Chance Homes without judicial intervention for minors over age 16**

➔ **Allow child care for those in education and training without a work requirement**

➔ **Improve transportation support for low-income workers** through increased car purchase, repair and leasing programs, help regaining suspended driving privileges and transitional support for people leaving W-2

➔ **Support changes in Unemployment Compensation** to allow: (1)"compelling circumstances" to be a good cause excuse for quitting a job on a case-by-case basis; (2) persons seeking part-time employment be eligible for UC; and (3) persons eligible for benefits when they leave employment for a short time for giving birth or adopting a child

➔ **Increase the state minimum wage and index it for inflation**

➔ **Establish a time-limited, state-funded housing subsidy for working poor families**

➔ **Improve child support and paternity procedures and requirements for low-income fathers**

EDUCATION

➔ **Reform education financing**

JUVENILE JUSTICE

➔ **Oppose state take-over of JJ system**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

➔ **Support inflationary increase for community aids**

➔ **Increase state funding of Youth Aids** (Support WI County Human Services Association proposal for state assumption of 20% of Youth Aids costs)

CONTACT INFORMATION: Jill Jacklitz at 608-284-0580 ext. 305 or jjacklitz@wccf.org

NACA Members' Legislative Successes by State

MISSOURI - CITIZENS FOR MISSOURI'S CHILDREN

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

2000 Accomplishments

HEALTH

- **Required the Department of Social Services to reinstate those who were inappropriately cut off Medicaid because of loss of TANF cash grants**
- **Removed language asking SSN's for all household members**
- **Included "public charge" information in state MC+ packets and training materials**
- **Secured commitment for some HMO subcontractors to increase reimbursements for dentists**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Secured 5% rate increase for foster care and residential treatment. New appropriations of $3.7 million**
- **Secured 4% rate increases for adoption subsidies and the psychiatric diversion program. New appropriations of $2.4 million**
- **Secured 120 new child protective services workers in the Division of Family Services. New appropriations of $4.7 million**

1999 Accomplishments

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Enacted the Family Care Registry, which requires all child care providers receiving public funds to undergo criminal and child abuse record checks**
- **Established minimum criteria for registered child care providers who receive public funds via the voucher program**

CHILD WELFARE

- **Secured 185 additional children's services workers. New appropriations of $5.8 million**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Beth Griffin at 314-647-2003 or mbgrif@fastrans.net

NEW JERSEY - ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

2000 Accomplishments

➔ **ACNJ played a major role through a special lobbying campaign to secure over $300 million in the New Jersey State budget.** This included enactment of a new state earned income tax, a new family care health insurance program and expanding funding for public pre-school services in special needs school districts.

➔ **Legislation supported by ACNJ and enacted this year included Safe Havens for Abandoned Infants and criminal history background checks for child care staff.** ACNJ was also actively involved in legislation requiring child-proof handguns, proposing an IDA and a package of bills on issues related to kinship care.

➔ **ACNJ actively monitored and submitted comments on proposed regulations in the areas of child welfare, juvenile justice, Abbot implementation and special education.**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Ciro Scalera at 973-643-3876 ext. 106 or ciro@acnj.org

NEW YORK STATE - CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK, INC.

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

2000 Accomplishments

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **$119.5 million added for child care subsidies**
- **$40 million added for recruitment and retention of workers**
- **$3 million added to expand Child Care tax credit**

Lead staff member: Candice Anderson

HEALTH

- **$36.2 million added for children's residential and support services in HCRA 2000**
- **$2.85 million added for children's mental health treatment services**

Lead staff member: Tara Sher

CHILD WELFARE

- **$23 million added for Perspective Services Initiatives**

Lead staff member: Gabrielle Kreisler

ECONOMIC SECURITY/ FAMILY SUPPORT

- **$45 million added for the Wage Subsidy Program**

Lead staff member: Maria Toro

EDUCATION

- **$225 million for universal pre-kindergarten**
- **$140 million for early grade class size reduction**
- **$50 million to support minor maintenance and repair for school facilities**

Lead staff member: Candice Anderson

JUVENILE JUSTICE

- **$1 million added for Juvenile Aftercare Services**

Lead staff member: Gabrielle Kreisler

INTERVENTION/PREVENTION

- **$1.6 million added for Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention (YDDP)**
- **$10 million added for Advantage Schools**
- **$500,000 added for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Program**
- **$35 million added for Summer Jobs for Youth**

Lead staff member: Candice Anderson

CONTACT INFORMATION: Candice Anderson at 212-673-1800 ext. 17, Tara Sher at ext. 16, Maria Toro at ext. 20, and Gabrielle Kreisler at ext. 12

RHODE ISLAND - RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT

A Member of the National Association of Child Advocates

2000 and 1999 Accomplishments

➔ **Expansion of Children's Health Insurance through the RIte Care Program**-program now covers all children up to the age of 19 in families up to 250% of the FPL, parents up to 185% of poverty, and undocumented children. Lead staff member: Dorothy Stamper

➔ **Increase funding and expansion of the state's Starting Right Program**-expansion of eligibility for state-subsidized child care to families up to 225% of the poverty line, increase in number of child care slots with wrap-around social services for Head Start eligible children, and an increase in reimbursement rates for child care providers. Lead staff member: Elizabeth Burke Bryant

➔ **Expansion of the School Breakfast Program**-law originally mandated that 40% of elementary schools participants; however as more children in poverty were offered the program it was expanded to include all public schools in Rhode Island. Lead staff member: Elizabeth Burke Bryant

➔ **Increase in funding for lead hazard mitigation programs-funding for programs that involve lead abatement.** Most of these lead items were not state legislative priorities. Lead staff member: Cyd McKenna

➔ **Increase in Gun Safety regulations-all licensed sellers of guns most now provide trigger locks or safety devices on all pistols.** Lead staff member: Laura Beavers

CONTACT INFORMATION: Elizabeth Burke Bryant at 401-351-9400 ext. 12 or ebb@rikids.org

SOUTH CAROLINA - ALLIANCE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN

2000 Accomplishments

- **Increased First Steps funding by $10 million**
- **Expanded children's health care coverage up to 165% FPL**

1999 Accomplishments

- **Established funding for an early childhood initiative, First Steps to School Readiness**
- **Reduce background check fees for non-profits that deal with children**
- **Fully funded the child care licensing office**

1998 Accomplishments

- **Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention**

1997 Accomplishments

- **Full state funding for full school-day kindergarten**
- **Increased Medicaid eligibility for ages 6-18 to 133% FPL**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Ian Hamilton at 803-256-4670 ext. 226 or icham@bellsouth.net